

Troilus and Cressida

Edited by
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ROLES IN THE PLAY

PROLOGUE

PRIAM, King of Troy
HECTOR
TROILUS
PARIS
DEIPHOBUS
HELENUS, a priest
BASTARD Margarelon
AENEAS
ANTENOR

} Priam's sons

} other leaders of
the Trojans

HECUBA, Priam's wife
CASSANDRA, Priam's daughter
ANDROMACHE, Hector's wife
HELEN, Menelaus' wife, Paris' mistress

CRESSID
PANDARUS, her uncle, a lord

CALCHAS, her father, who has defected to the
Greeks
A MAN called Alexander, servant to Cressid

AGAMEMNON, general of the Greeks
MENELAUS, his brother, Helen's
husband
NESTOR, an old man
ULYSSES
ACHILLES
PATROCLUS, his companion
AJAX
DIOMED
THERSITES, a scurrilous Greek
MYRMIDONS, soldiers of Achilles

} leaders of
the Greeks

SERVANTS
musicians, soldiers, attendants

Prologue

[Enter] the Prologue

PROLOGUE In Troy there lies the scene. From isles of Greece
The princes orgillous, their high blood chafed,
Have to the port of Athens sent their ships
Fraught with the ministers and instruments
5 Of cruel war. Sixty and nine that wore
Their crownets regal, from th'Athenian bay
Put forth toward Phrygia, and their vow is made
To ransack Troy, within whose strong emures

Pro.o Enter the Prologue
The Prologue is armed
(Prologue.23), perhaps in a
style suggesting ancient
Greece, for example with
plumed helmet.
Prologue.1 there (perhaps
pointing)

Pro.2 orgillous proud
Pro.2 high proud, violent, noble
Pro.2 chafed warmed
Pro.4 Fraught laden

Pro.4 ministers agents
Pro.6 crownets coronets
Pro.7 Phrygia the state ruled by Troy (now in western Turkey)
Pro.8 emures walls

The ravished Helen, Menelaus' queen,
 10 With wanton Paris sleeps, and that's the quarrel.
 To Tenedos they come,
 And the deep-drawing barques do there disgorge
 Their warlike freightage. Now on Dardan plains
 The fresh and yet unbruised Greeks do pitch
 15 Their brave pavilions. Priam's six-gated city—
 Dardan and Timbria, Helias, Chetas, Trojan,
 And Arteneorides with massy staples
 And corresponsive and full-filling bolts—
 Spar up the sons of Troy.
 20 Now expectation, tickling skittish spirits
 On one and other side, Trojan and Greek,
 Sets all on hazard. And hither am I come,
 A prologue armed, but not in confidence
 Of author's pen or actor's voice, but suited
 25 In like conditions as our argument;
 To tell you, fair beholders, that our play
 Leaps o'er the vaunt and firstlings of those broils,
 Beginning in the middle, starting thence away
 To what may be digested in a play.
 30 Like or find fault, do as your pleasures are;
 Now good or bad, 'tis but the chance of war.

Sc. 1

1.1 Enter Pandarus and Troilus

TROILUS Call here my varlet; I'll unarm again.
 Why should I war without the walls of Troy,
 That find such cruel battle here within?
 Each Trojan that is master of his heart,

5 Let him to field; Troilus, alas, hath none.

PANDARUS Will this gear ne'er be mended?

TROILUS The Greeks are strong, and skilful to their strength,
 Fierce to their skill, and to their fierceness valiant;
 But I am weaker than a woman's tear,
 10 Tamer than sleep, fonder than ignorance,
 Less valiant than the virgin in the night,
 And skillless as unpractised infancy.

[Exit]

1.1 1.0 Enter . . . Troilus

Troilus is a young man, armed.
 Pandarus is an aristocrat,
 middle-aged or older. He is
 often portrayed as camp or
 seedy, and/or may suffer from
 symptoms of syphilis such as
 skin ulcers and bad joints.
 Pandarus might summon
 Troilus' 'varlet' (1.1) to appear
 on stage and assist in
 unarming him as the
 dialogue proceeds (in which
 case the 'Boy' is more readily
 identified at 2.224.1). Or
 Troilus begins to disarm
 himself.

1.2–5 Why . . . none.

Pandarus pays no overt
 attention to Troilus.

1.3 here within (indicating
 his breast, as within or just
 released from his armour)

Pro.9 **ravished** abducted, violated; or 'entranced'

Pro.9 **queen** (perhaps punning on 'quean' = whore)

Pro.10 **wanton** sexually hot, passionate

Pro.11 **Tenedos** an island near Troy

Pro.12 **deep-drawing** riding low in the water (because heavily laden)

Pro.13 **freightage** cargo

Pro.13 **Dardan** Trojan (after Dardanus, mythical founder of the city)

Pro.14 **unbruised** i.e. uninjured

Pro.15 **brave pavilions** splendid tents

Pro.16–17 **Dardan . . . Arteneorides** (the names of the six gates)

Pro.17 **staples** bolt-holes

Pro.18 **corresponsive** corresponding

Pro.19 **Spar** shut

Pro.23 **armed** in armour

Pro.23–4 **in . . . voice** confident of success in writing or acting

Pro.24–5 **suited . . . as** dressed appropriately for

Pro.25 **argument** subject (of the play)

Pro.27 **vaunt and firstlings** preliminaries

Pro.27 **broils** tumults

Pro.31 **Now . . . war** (proverbial)

1.1 1.1 **varlet** page (the boy who enters after 2.224)

1.5 **none** referring to his heart (having lost it to Cressid)

1.6 **gear** business (perhaps also referring to Troilus' undone armour)

1.6 **mended** settled, sorted out

1.7, 8 **to** in addition to; in proportion to

1.10 **fonder** more foolish

PANDARUS Well, I have told you: enough of this. For my part, I'll not
 15 meddle nor make no farther. He that will have a cake out of the wheat
 must tarry the grinding.

TROILUS Have I not tarried?

PANDARUS Ay, the grinding; but you must tarry the boulting.

TROILUS Have I not tarried?

PANDARUS Ay, the boulting; but you must tarry the leavening.

20 TROILUS Still have I tarried.

PANDARUS Ay, to the leavening; but here's yet in the word hereafter: the
 kneading, the making of the cake, the heating the oven, and the baking.
 Nay, you must stay the cooling too, or ye may chance burn your lips.

TROILUS Patience herself, what goddess e'er she be,

25 Doth lesser blench at sufferance than I do.

At Priam's royal table do I sit,

And when fair Cressid comes into my thoughts—

So, traitor: 'when' she comes? When is she thence?

PANDARUS Well, she looked yesternight fairer than ever I saw her look,
 30 or any woman else.

TROILUS I was about to tell thee: when my heart,

As wedg'd with a sigh, would rive in twain,

Lest Hector or my father should perceive me,

I have, as when the sun doth light a storm,

35 Buried this sigh in wrinkle of a smile;

But sorrow that is couched in seeming gladness

Is like that mirth fate turns to sudden sadness.

PANDARUS An her hair were not somewhat darker than Helen's, well, go
 to, there were no more comparison between the women. But, for my
 40 part, she is my kinswoman; I would not, as they term it, praise her.
 But I would somebody had heard her talk yesterday as I did. I will not
 dispraise your sister Cassandra's wit, but—

TROILUS O Pandarus! I tell thee, Pandarus—

When I do tell thee 'There my hopes lie drowned',

45 Reply not in how many fathoms deep

They lie indrenched—I tell thee, I am mad

In Cressid's love. Thou answer'st 'She is fair';

Pour'st in the open ulcer of my heart

Her eyes, her hair, her cheek, her gait, her voice;

50 Handlest in thy discourse, 'O that, her hand,

In whose comparison all whites are ink

Writing their own reproach, to whose soft seizure

The cygnet's down is harsh, and spirit of sense

Hard as the palm of ploughman!' This thou tell'st me—

1.15 **grinding** Pandarus probably uses innuendo or gesture to bring out the sexual suggestion of this and the other terms from baking.

1.14 **meddle nor make** have any more to do with it (proverbial)

1.17 **boulting** sifting

1.21 **the word** (either 'leavening' or 'hereafter')

1.24–5 **Patience** . . . lesser no one but Patience . . . lesser

1.25 **blench** flinch (but also 'blanch')

1.25 **sufferance** endurance; suffering

1.28 **traitor** (referring to himself for momentarily supposing that Cressid is sometimes absent from his thoughts)

1.32 **rive** split (as wood is with a wedge)

1.33 **perceive** notice me, see into me

1.36 **is couched** lies hidden

1.38 **An if**

1.38 **darker** (blonde hair being fashionable)

1.38–9 **go to** say no more

1.39 **comparison** distinction to be made, difference in worth

1.40 **praise** (Pandarus' attention to the word suggests a possible pun on 'appraise')

1.46 **indrenched** sunk

1.47 **In Cressid's love** in love for Cressid

1.50 **Handlest** deal with

1.50 **that her hand** that hand of hers

1.52 **to** compared to

1.52 **seizure** grasp

1.53 **spirit of sense** the very essence of sensation, slightest touch

- 55 As true thou tell'st me—when I say I love her.
But saying thus, instead of oil and balm,
Thou lay'st in every gash that love hath given me
The knife that made it.
- PANDARUS I speak no more than truth.
- 60 TROILUS Thou dost not speak so much.
- PANDARUS Faith, I'll not meddle in't. Let her be as she is. If she be fair,
'tis the better for her; an she be not, she has the 'mends in her own hands.
- TROILUS Good Pandarus! How now, Pandarus?
- PANDARUS I have had my labour for my travail, ill thought on of her
65 and ill thought of you; gone between and between, but small thanks for
my labour.
- TROILUS What, art thou angry, Pandarus? What, with me?
- PANDARUS Because she's kin to me, therefore she's not so fair as Helen.
An she were not kin to me, she would be as fair on Friday as Helen
70 is on Sunday. But what care I? I care not an she were a blackamoor.
'Tis all one to me.
- TROILUS Say I she is not fair?
- PANDARUS I do not care whether you do or no. She's a fool to stay
behind her father. Let her to the Greeks; and so I'll tell her the next
75 time I see her. For my part, I'll meddle nor make no more i'th' matter.
- TROILUS Pandarus!
- PANDARUS Not I.
- TROILUS Sweet Pandarus!
- PANDARUS Pray you, speak no more to me. I will leave all as I found it,
80 and there an end. *Exit Pandarus.*

Sound alarum

- TROILUS Peace, you ungracious clamours! Peace, rude sounds!
Fools on both sides: Helen must needs be fair
When with your blood you daily paint her thus.
I cannot fight upon this argument;
85 It is too starved a subject for my sword.
But Pandarus—O Gods, how do you plague me!—
I cannot come to Cressid but by Pandar,
And he's as tetchy to be wooed to woo
As she is stubborn-chaste against all suit.
- 90 Tell me, Apollo, for thy Daphne's love,
What Cressid is, what Pandar, and what we.
Her bed is India; there she lies, a pearl.
Between our Ilium and where she resides
Let it be called the wild and wand'ring flood,

1.80.1 alarum an offstage military signal, typically with drums and trumpets, summoning soldiers to action during a battle

1.55 **As** and indeed it is

1.62 **She has the 'mends in her own hands** (proverbial: she has the remedy, presumably cosmetics)

1.64 **my labour for my travail** my efforts as their own reward

1.69 **on Friday . . . on Sunday** in everyday dress . . . in her finest clothes

1.69–70 **Friday** day of fasting, thereby associated with sadness

1.70 **blackamoor** black African

1.74 **her father** Calchas, who has deserted to the Greeks

1.80.1 **alarum** trumpet call to arms

1.83 **paint** (figuratively) daub, as though with rouge

1.84 **upon this argument** for this cause

1.85 **starved a subject** meagre a reason; emaciated a victim

1.88 **tetchy to be** irritable about being

1.90 **Apollo** god of poetry

1.90 **for thy Daphne's love** for your love for Daphne (a nymph who prayed to be turned into a bay tree to escape Apollo's advances)

1.92 **India** (as source of jewels, precious metals, exotic spices, and rich fabrics)

1.93 **Ilium** Priam's palace, or the city of Troy more generally

1.94 **flood** sea, waves

95 Ourself the merchant, and this sailing Pandar
 Our doubtful hope, our convoy and our barque.

Alarum. Enter Aeneas

AENEAS How now, Prince Troilus? Wherefore not afield?

TROILUS Because not there. This woman's answer sorts,
 For womanish it is to be from thence.

100 What news, Aeneas, from the field today?

AENEAS That Paris is returnèd home, and hurt.

TROILUS By whom, Aeneas?

AENEAS Troilus, by Menelaus.

TROILUS Let Paris bleed; 'tis but a scar to scorn.

 Paris is gored with Menelaus' horn.

Alarum

105 AENEAS Hark what good sport is out of town today.

TROILUS Better at home, if 'would I might' were 'may'.

 But to the sport abroad: are you bound thither?

AENEAS In all swift haste.

TROILUS Come, go we then together.

Exeunt

Sc. 2

1.2 *Enter Cressid and her Man*

CRESSID Who were those went by?

MAN Queen Hecuba and Helen.

CRESSID And whither go they?

MAN Up to the eastern tower,

 Whose height commands as subject all the vale,

 To see the battle. Hector, whose patience

5 Is as a virtue fixed, today was moved.

 He chid Andromache and struck his armorer;

 And, like as there were husbandry in war,

 Before the sun rose he was harnessed light;

 And to the field goes he, where every flower

10 Did as a prophet weep what it foresaw

 In Hector's wrath.

CRESSID What was his cause of anger?

MAN The noise goes this: there is among the Greeks

 A lord of Trojan blood, nephew to Hector.

 They call him Ajax.

CRESSID Good; and what of him?

15 MAN They say he is a very man *per se*

 And stands alone.

CRESSID So do all men, unless they are drunk, sick, or have no legs.

MAN This man, lady, hath robbed many beasts of their particular
 additions: he is as valiant as the lion, churlish as the bear, slow as the

1.96.1 *Aeneas* He too is
 probably armed.

1.2 2.0 *Enter . . . Man*
 Cressid, her man, and
 Pandarus might appear
 above, as at a window, from
 where they watch the warriors
 return from battle. This
 would suggest that they are in
 her father Calchas' house. Or
 they enter on the main stage;
 then, at 'Shall we stand up
 here?', 2.149, mount a low
 platform. This would suggest
 they are in a street in Troy.
 Cressid is a young, attractive,
 and teasing gentlewoman.
 Hecuba and Helen might pass
 over the stage as Cressid and
 her man enter, or before
 them. Hecuba is elderly.

1.96 doubtful uncertain

1.96 convoy mode of conveyance

1.98 sorts suits

1.103 scar wound

1.104 horn (the emblem of the cuckold, Paris having seduced
 Menelaus' wife)

1.2 2.5 as a virtue fixed constant as a virtue should be

2.5 moved angry

2.7 husbandry hard work, sound farming practice (A con-
 scientious farmer rose before dawn, and the metaphor leads to a
 pun on *field/battlefield*, 2.9.)

2.8 harnessed light in light armour (as for infantry rather than
 mounted combat); or *light* = 'quickly'

2.10 Did . . . weep (being wet with dew)

2.12 noise rumour

2.13 nephew relation (in fact, first cousin)

2.14 Good well

2.15 *per se* complete and perfect in himself

2.16 stands alone is without rival (Cressid playfully takes the
 remark literally, probably adding a sexual innuendo.)

2.19 additions characteristic attributes

20 elephant; a man into whom nature hath so crowded humours that his
valour is crushed into folly, his folly sauced with discretion. There is
no man hath a virtue that he hath not a glimpse of, nor any man an
attaint but he carries some stain of it. He is melancholy without
25 cause, and merry against the hair. He hath the joints of every thing,
but everything so out of joint that he is a gouty Briareus, many
hands and no use, or purblind Argus, all eyes and no sight.

CRESSID But how should this man that makes me smile make Hector
angry?

MAN They say he yesterday coped Hector in the battle and struck him
30 down, the disdain and shame whereof hath ever since kept Hector
fasting and waking.

Enter Pandarus

CRESSID Who comes here?

MAN Madam, your uncle Pandarus.

CRESSID Hector's a gallant man.

35 MAN As may be in the world, lady.

PANDARUS What's that, what's that?

CRESSID Good morrow, uncle Pandarus.

PANDARUS Good morrow, cousin Cressid. What do you talk of?—
Good morrow, Alexander.—How do ye, cousin? When were you at
40 Ilium?

CRESSID This morning, uncle.

PANDARUS What were you talking of when I came? Was Hector armed
and gone ere ye came to Ilium? Helen was not up, was she?

CRESSID Hector was gone, but Helen was not up.

45 PANDARUS E'en so; Hector was stirring early.

CRESSID That were we talking of, and of his anger.

PANDARUS Was he angry?

CRESSID So he says here.

[Exit Man]

PANDARUS True, he was so; I know the cause too. He'll lay about him
50 today, I can tell them that. And there's Troilus will not come far behind
him. Let them take heed of Troilus; I can tell them that too.

CRESSID What, is he angry too?

PANDARUS Who, Troilus? Troilus is the better man of the two.

CRESSID O Jupiter, there's no comparison!

55 PANDARUS What, not between Troilus and Hector? Do you know a man
if you see him?

CRESSID Ay, if I ever saw him before and knew him.

PANDARUS Well, I say Troilus is Troilus.

CRESSID Then you say as I say, for I am sure he is not Hector.

60 PANDARUS No, nor Hector is not Troilus in some degrees.

CRESSID 'Tis just to each of them: he is himself.

PANDARUS Himself? Alas, poor Troilus, I would he were!

2.31.1 Enter Pandarus

Pandarus enters at a distance
from Cressid and her man,
and might actually appear on
stage only after Cressid asks
'Who comes here?'

2.34 CRESSID . . . man.

Cressid provokes Pandarus by
praising Hector (not Troilus)
so that Pandarus can
overhear what she says to her
Man.

2.48.1 Exit Man

He might
be coming and going about
his work before leaving.
Alternatively he remains on
stage, leaving with Pandarus
after 2.235.

2.20 **humours** inclinations, peculiarities

2.22 **glimpse** flash, glimmer

2.23 **attaint** defect, taint

2.24 **against the hair** against the grain, inappropriately

2.25 **Briareus** (a hundred-handed giant)

2.26 **purblind** totally blind

2.26 **Argus** (Juno deprived Argus of his hundred eyes because he
fell asleep guarding Io.)

2.29 **coped** engaged

2.30 **disdain** indignation

2.31 **fasting and waking** (like a penitent or meditant; *waking* =
'awake')

2.39 **cousin** relation

2.44 **gone . . . up** (punning on the senses 'pregnant' and 'erect')

2.48 **he** her servant

2.57 if . . . **knew him** (Cressid obstinately takes Pandarus' figurative
language literally, perhaps insinuating *knew* in its sexual sense.)

2.60 **degrees** respects

- CRESSID So he is.
 PANDARUS Condition I had gone barefoot to India.
 65 CRESSID He is not Hector.
 PANDARUS Himself? No, he's not himself. Would 'a were himself! Well,
 the gods are above. Time must friend or end. Well, Troilus, well! I would
 my heart were in her body. No, Hector is not a better man than Troilus.
 CRESSID Excuse me.
 70 PANDARUS He is elder.
 CRESSID Pardon me, pardon me.
 PANDARUS Th'others not come to't. You shall tell me another tale when
 th'others come to't. Hector shall not have his will this year—
 CRESSID He shall not need it if he have his own.
 75 PANDARUS Nor his qualities—
 CRESSID No matter.
 PANDARUS Nor his beauty.
 CRESSID 'Twould not become him; his own's better.
 PANDARUS You have no judgement, niece. Helen herself swore th'other
 80 day, that Troilus for a brown favour—for so 'tis I must confess—not
 brown neither—
 CRESSID No, but brown.
 PANDARUS Faith, to say truth, brown and not brown.
 CRESSID To say the truth, true and not true.
 85 PANDARUS She praised his complexion above Paris.
 CRESSID Why, Paris hath colour enough.
 PANDARUS So he has.
 CRESSID Then Troilus should have too much. If she praised him above,
 his complexion is higher than his. He having colour enough, and the
 90 other higher, is too flaming a praise for a good complexion. I had as lief
 Helen's golden tongue had commended Troilus for a copper nose.
 PANDARUS I swear to you, I think Helen loves him better than Paris.
 CRESSID Then she's a merry Greek indeed.
 PANDARUS Nay, I am sure she does. She came to him th'other day into
 95 the compassed window; and you know he has not past three or four
 hairs on his chin—
 CRESSID Indeed, a tapster's arithmetic may soon bring his particulars
 therein to a total.
 PANDARUS Why, he is very young, and yet will he within three pound
 100 lift as much as his brother Hector.
 CRESSID Is he so young a man and so old a lifter?
 PANDARUS But to prove to you that Helen loves him, she came and puts
 me her white hand to his cloven chin—
 CRESSID Juno have mercy! How came it cloven?
 105 PANDARUS Why, you know 'tis dimpled. I think his smiling becomes
 him better than any man in all Phrygia.
 CRESSID O, he smiles valiantly.

2.104 Juno . . . cloven?
 Cressid pretends shock at the
 thought that Troilus' chin has
 been split on the battlefield.

2.64 **Condition . . . India** an impossibility (equivalent to today's
 'if pigs could fly')
 2.67 **the gods . . . end** (two proverbs)
 2.72, 73 **to't** to his prime (but probably with a sexual suggestion of
 readiness)
 2.73 **will** determination, constancy (Cressid perhaps brings out
 other senses: 'carnal appetite', 'penis'.)
 2.80 **brown favour** (unfashionably) tanned face
 2.88 **should** must therefore

2.88 **above** above Paris
 2.91 **copper nose** red nose, caused by drinking (or 'false nose',
 implying he had lost his nose from syphilis)
 2.93 **merry Greek** promiscuous woman
 2.95 **compassed** bay
 2.97 **tapster's arithmetic** counting on one's fingers
 2.101 **old** experienced
 2.101 **lifter** (punning on the sense 'pickpocket')

- PANDARUS Does he not?
 CRESSID O yes, an 'twere a cloud in autumn.
- 110 PANDARUS Why, go to, then! But to prove to you that Helen loves Troilus—
 CRESSID Troilus will stand to the proof if you'll prove it so.
 PANDARUS Troilus? Why, he esteems her no more than I esteem an addle egg.
- 115 CRESSID If you love an addle egg as well as you love an idle head, you would eat chickens i'th' shell.
 PANDARUS I cannot choose but laugh to think how she tickled his chin. Indeed, she has a marvel's white hand, I must needs confess.
 CRESSID Without the rack.
- 120 PANDARUS And she takes upon her to spy a white hair on his chin.
 CRESSID Alas, poor chin! Many a wart is richer.
 PANDARUS But there was such laughing! Queen Hecuba laughed that her eyes ran o'er.
 CRESSID With millstones.
- 125 PANDARUS And Cassandra laughed.
 CRESSID But there was a more temperate fire under the pot of her eyes. Did her eyes run o'er too?
 PANDARUS And Hector laughed.
 CRESSID At what was all this laughing?
- 130 PANDARUS Marry, at the white hair that Helen spied on Troilus' chin.
 CRESSID An't had been a green hair, I should have laughed too.
 PANDARUS They laughed not so much at the hair as at his pretty answer.
 CRESSID What was his answer?
 PANDARUS Quoth she, 'Here's but two and fifty hairs on your chin, and one of them is white?'
- 135 CRESSID This is her question.
 PANDARUS That's true, make no question of that. 'Two and fifty hairs,' quoth he, 'and one white? That white hair is my father, and all the rest are his sons.' 'Jupiter!' quoth she, 'which of these hairs is Paris my husband?' 'The forked one,' quoth he, 'pluck't out and give it him.' But there was such laughing, and Helen so blushed, and Paris so chafed, and all the rest so laughed, that it passed.
- CRESSID So let it now, for it has been a great while going by.
 PANDARUS Well, cousin, I told you a thing yesterday; think on't.
- 145 CRESSID So I do.
 PANDARUS I'll be sworn 'tis true. He will weep you an 'twere a man born in April.
 CRESSID And I'll spring up in his tears an 'twere a nettle against May.

Sound a retreat

2.109 **an** as if
 2.109 **in autumn** threatening rain
 2.112 **stand to the proof** attest the proof; have an erection
 2.114 **addle** rotten
 2.119 **the rack** being tortured
 2.122 **Queen Hecuba** (usually an archetype of lamentation)
 2.122 **that** so much that
 2.124 **With millstones** not with tears (A hard-hearted person was said to weep millstones.)
 2.125 **Cassandra** (usually an archetype of doom-laden prophecy)
 2.126 **But . . . of her eyes** (Cressid imagines tears of laughter as a pot boiling over.)

2.131 **green** (suggesting youth)
 2.132 **pretty** cute, witty
 2.139 **sons** Priam reputedly had only fifty sons.
 2.139 **hairs** (punning on 'heirs')
 2.140 **forked** (like a cuckold's horns; suggesting Helen had been unfaithful to Paris)
 2.141 **chafed** fretted
 2.142 **passed** surpassed description (Cressid takes as 'went away')
 2.147 **April** (the month of showers)
 2.148 **against** in anticipation of
 2.148.1 **retreat** a signal, typically with drums and trumpets, calling for combatants to retire for the day

PANDARUS Hark, they are coming from the field. Shall we stand up here
 150 and see them as they pass toward Ilium? Good niece, do, sweet niece
 Cressida.

CRESSID At your pleasure.

PANDARUS Here, here, here's an excellent place. Here we may see most
 bravely. I'll tell you them all by their names as they pass by. But mark
 155 Troilus above the rest.

Enter Aeneas [and passes over the stage]

CRESSID Speak not so loud.

PANDARUS That's Aeneas. Is not that a brave man? He's one of the
 flowers of Troy, I can tell you. But mark Troilus; you shall see anon.

CRESSID Who's that?

Enter Antenor [and passes over the stage]

160 PANDARUS That's Antenor. He has a shrewd wit, I can tell you, and he's
 a man good enough. He's one o'th' soundest judgements in Troy
 whosoever, and a proper man of person. When comes Troilus? I'll show
 you Troilus anon. If he see me, you shall see him nod at me.

CRESSID Will he give you the nod?

165 PANDARUS You shall see.

CRESSID If he do, the rich shall have more.

Enter Hector [and passes over the stage]

PANDARUS That's Hector. That, that, look you, that. There's a fellow! Go
 thy way, Hector! There's a brave man, niece. O, brave Hector! Look how
 he looks! There's a countenance. Is't not a brave man?

170 CRESSID O brave man!

PANDARUS Is 'a not? It does a man's heart good. Look you what hacks
 are on his helmet. Look you yonder. Do you see? Look you there. There's
 no jesting. There's laying on, take't off who will, as they say. There be
 hacks.

175 CRESSID Be those with swords?

Enter Paris [and passes over the stage]

PANDARUS Swords, anything. He cares not an the devil come to him; it's
 all one. By God's lid, it does one's heart good! Yonder comes Paris,
 yonder comes Paris. Look ye yonder, niece. Is't not a gallant man too, is't
 not? Why, this is brave now! Who said he came hurt home today? He's
 180 not hurt. Why, this will do Helen's heart good now, ha! Would I could
 see Troilus now! You shall see Troilus anon.

CRESSID Who's that?

Enter Helenus [and passes over the stage]

PANDARUS That's Helenus. I marvel where Troilus is. That's Helenus. I
 think he went not forth today. That's Helenus.

2.149–50 Shall . . . Ilium?
 See scene headnote.

2.155.1 *passes over the stage*
 Aeneas and the other
 combatants will enter at one
 door, cross the stage, and exit
 at another. The procession is a
 ceremonial display of prowess,
 perhaps with acclamations
 from other onlookers (on- or
 offstage). There may also be
 other soldiers; each actor
 would be able to cross the
 stage more than once.

2.166.1 *Hector* He is
 maturer than his brothers,
 and a plausibly heroic warrior.
 2.167–8 *Go thy way,*
Hector! Hector may not hear
 or respond to this.

2.153–4 *most bravely* very finely

2.158 *flowers* choicest representatives, élite

2.161 *He's one* he has one

2.162 *whosoever* of any man

2.162 *proper man of person* good-looking man

2.163–4 *If . . . nod* If Troilus acknowledges Pandarus with a nod,
 this will make him a 'noddy', a fool—even more so than he is
 already (alluding to Matthew 25:29, 'unto everyone that hath
 shall be given').

2.168 *brave* splendid; courageous

2.171 *Is 'a* is he

2.173 *laying on* hard fighting

2.173 *take't off who will* make no mistake

2.177 *all one* all the same

2.177 *lid* eyelid

2.178 *gallant* fine

- 185 CRESSID Can Helenus fight, uncle?
 PANDARUS Helenus? No. Yes, he'll fight indifferent well. I marvel where Troilus is. Hark, do you not hear the people cry 'Troilus'? Helenus is a priest.
 CRESSID What sneaking fellow comes yonder?
Enter Troilus [and passes over the stage]
- 190 PANDARUS Where? Yonder? That's Deiphobus.—'Tis Troilus! There's a man, niece, hm? Brave Troilus, the prince of chivalry!
 CRESSID Peace, for shame, peace!
 PANDARUS Mark him, note him. O brave Troilus! Look well upon him, niece. Look you how his sword is bloodied, and his helm more hacked than Hector's, and how he looks, and how he goes. O admirable youth! He ne'er saw three and twenty. Go thy way, Troilus, go thy way! Had I a sister were a Grace, or a daughter a goddess, he should take his choice. O admirable man! Paris? Paris is dirt to him; and I warrant Helen, to change, would give an eye to boot.
Enter common soldiers [and pass over the stage]
- 200 CRESSID Here come more.
 PANDARUS Asses, fools, dolts, chaff and bran, chaff and bran, porridge after meat. I could live and die i'th' eyes of Troilus. Ne'er look, ne'er look; the eagles are gone. Crows and daws, crows and daws. I had rather be such a man as Troilus than Agamemnon and all Greece.
- 205 CRESSID There is among the Greeks Achilles a better man than Troilus.
 PANDARUS Achilles? A drayman, a porter, a very camel.
 CRESSID Well, well.
 PANDARUS 'Well, well'? Why, have you any discretion? Have you any eyes? Do you know what a man is? Is not birth, beauty, good shape, discourse, manhood, learning, gentleness, virtue, youth, liberality, and so forth, the spice and salt that seasons a man?
- 210 CRESSID Ay, a minced man; and then to be baked with no date in the pie, for then the man's date's out.
 PANDARUS You are such another woman! One knows not at what ward you lie.
- 215 CRESSID Upon my back to defend my belly; upon my wit to defend my wiles; upon my secrecy to defend mine honesty; my mask to defend my beauty—and you to defend all these. And at all these wards I lie, at a thousand watches.
- 220 PANDARUS Say one of your watches.

2.185 Can Helenus fight

Helenus perhaps looks unwarlike, or is recognizably a priest.

2.187 Hark . . . 'Troilus'?

There may or may not be such a shout, and it may or may not audibly identify Troilus.

2.190 That's Deiphobus

Ironically, Pandarus fails to identify Troilus when he arrives.

2.186 **indifferent** moderately

2.195 **goes** walks

2.197 **a Grace** (The three Graces were goddesses of female virtues, typically beauty, charm, and creativity.)

2.198–9 **to change** so she could exchange Paris for Troilus

2.199 **to boot** into the bargain

2.201 **chaff . . . bran** (the discarded parts of harvested grain)

2.201 **porridge** thick soup

2.203 **daws** jackdaws (epitomes of foolishness)

2.206 **camel** (as stupid, obstinate, and bad-tempered beast of burden)

2.209 **birth** aristocratic lineage

2.210 **discourse** eloquence

2.210 **gentleness** gentility

2.212 **minced** (Cressid complicates the cooking image by punning *minced* as 'emasculated', *date* as 'penis', and *pie* as 'vagina'.)

2.214 **You . . . woman** what a woman you are (proverbial)

2.214–15 **One . . . lie** a man doesn't know how to deal with you

2.214–15 **at what ward you lie** what position of defence you adopt (as in fencing)

2.216 **belly** vagina, womb (lying on one's back not being an effective way to defend it)

2.217 **secrecy** ability to keep secrets (but playing on the sense 'genitals')

2.217 **honesty** reputation

2.217–18 **defend my beauty** (from sun-burning)

2.219 **watches** acts of guarding, night-time patrols (Pandarus in his reply alludes to a *watch* as a devotional exercise.)

CRESSID Nay, I'll watch you for that, and that's one of the chiefest of them too. If I cannot ward what I would not have hit, I can watch you for telling how I took the blow—unless it swell past hiding, and then it's past watching.

Enter Boy

225 PANDARUS You are such another.
 BOY Sir, my lord would instantly speak with you.
 PANDARUS Where?
 BOY At your own house.
 PANDARUS Good boy, tell him I come. *[Exit Boy]*
 230 I doubt he be hurt. Fare ye well, good niece.
 CRESSID Adieu, uncle.
 PANDARUS I'll be with you, niece, by and by.
 CRESSID To bring, uncle?
 PANDARUS Ay, a token from Troilus.
 235 CRESSID By the same token, you are a bawd. *Exit Pandarus*
 Words, vows, gifts, tears, and love's full sacrifice
 He offers in another's enterprise.
 But more in Troilus thousandfold I see
 Than in the glass of Pandar's praise may be.
 240 Yet hold I off. Women are angels wooing.
 Things won are done. Joy's soul lies in the doing.
 That she beloved knows naught that knows not this:
 Men prize the thing ungained more than it is.
 That she was never yet that ever knew
 245 Love got so sweet as when desire did sue.
 Therefore this maxim out of love I teach:
 'Achievement is command; ungained, beseech'.
 Then though my heart's contents firm love doth bear,
 Nothing of that shall from mine eyes appear. *Exit*

Sc. 3

1.3 *Sennet. Enter Agamemnon, Nestor, Ulysses, Diomed, Menelaus, with others*
 AGAMEMNON Princes, what grief hath set the jaundice on your cheeks?
 The ample proposition that hope makes
 In all designs begun on earth below
 Fails in the promised largeness. Checks and disasters
 5 Grow in the veins of actions highest reared,
 As knots by the conflux of meeting sap

1.3 3.0.1–2 Sennet . . .

others Agamemnon may have a throne, or his weak leadership may be reflected in his lack of priority. The other commanders' appearance will to some degree indicate their leading traits or roles: Nestor old; Ulysses cunning; Diomed young, confident, and handsome; Menelaus dejected as cuckold.

3.0.1 *Sennet* The fanfare on trumpets or cornets is perhaps heard from within.

2.221 **watch** keep an eye on
 2.222 **hit** (punning on the sexual sense 'penetrated')
 2.223 **for** to prevent you
 2.223 **blow** thrust (with sexual sense)
 2.223 **it swell past hiding** my belly grows visibly pregnant
 2.224 **past watching** too late to worry
 2.226 **my lord** Troilus
 2.230 **doubt** fear
 2.239 **glass** mirror
 2.240 **are . . . wooing** are treated like angels by men wooing them
 2.241 **doing** (punning on the sense 'intercourse')
 2.242 **she** woman

2.243 **is** is worth
 2.245 **got** achieved
 2.246 **out of** derived from
 2.247 **Achievement . . . beseech** a woman is commanded once she is won, but as long as she resists she is beseeched
 2.248 **my . . . bear** my heart bears firm love as its inner content
 1.3 3.1 **grief** grievance; sorrow; skin infection, disease
 3.1 **jaundice** (characterized by weakness, loss of appetite, and skin discolouration)
 3.4 **Checks** delays, obstacles
 3.6 **conflux** confluence
 3.7 **his** its

Infect the sound pine, and diverts his grain
 Tortive and errant from his course of growth.
 Nor, princes, is it matter new to us
 10 That we come short of our suppose so far
 That, after seven years' siege, yet Troy walls stand,
 Sith every action that hath gone before,
 Whereof we have recòrd, trial did draw
 Bias and thwart, not answering the aim
 15 And that unbodied figure of the thought
 That gave't surmisèd shape. Why then, you princes,
 Do you with cheeks abashed behold our works,
 And think them shame, which are, indeed, naught else
 But the protractive trials of great Jove
 20 To find persistive constancy in men?—
 The fineness of which metal is not found
 In Fortune's love; for then the bold and coward,
 The wise and fool, the artist and unread,
 The hard and soft, seem all affined and kin.
 25 But in the wind and tempest of her frown,
 Distinction, with a loud and powerful fan
 Puffing at all, winnows the light away;
 And what hath mass or matter by itself
 Lies rich in virtue and unminglèd.
 30 NESTOR With due observance of thy godly seat,
 Great Agamemnon, Nestor shall apply
 Thy latest words. In the reproof of chance
 Lies the true proof of men. The sea being smooth,
 How many shallow bauble boats dare sail
 35 Upon her patient breast, making their way
 With those of nobler bulk!
 But let the ruffian Boreas once enrage
 The gentle Thetis, and anon behold
 The strong-ribbed barque through liquid mountains cut,
 40 Bounding between the two moist elements
 Like Perseus' horse. Where's then the saucy boat
 Whose weak untimbered sides but even now
 Co-rivalled greatness?—Either to harbour fled,
 Or made a toast for Neptune. Even so
 45 Doth valour's show and valour's worth divide

3.8 Tortive twisted
 3.8 errant wandering
 3.10 suppose 'expectation'; 'intention'
 3.13 trial testing (of events themselves)
 3.14 Bias and thwart awry and athwart
 3.14 answering living up to
 3.15 unbodied figure abstract design
 3.16 surmisèd imaginary
 3.18 them shame those things a disgrace
 3.19 protractive protracting
 3.20 persistive persistent
 3.21 fineness quality
 3.21 metal metal; *mettle*, temperament
 3.23 artist scholar
 3.24 affined related

3.27 winnows the light away (as light, dry chaff is blown away from grain)
 3.29 unminglèd unmixed, pure (four syllables)
 3.30 observance of respect to
 3.30 godly seat divine and pious throne
 3.31 apply interpret
 3.32 reproof of chance rebuke inflicted by chance events; refutation of our subjection to chance
 3.37 Boreas north wind
 3.38 Thetis sea goddess (mother of Achilles)
 3.40 two moist elements water and air
 3.41 Perseus' horse winged Pegasus
 3.41 saucy cheeky, impertinent
 3.42 but even just
 3.44 toast morsel of toasted bread (as floated in wine)

In storms of Fortune. For in her ray and brightness
 The herd hath more annoyance by the breeze
 Than by the tiger; but when the splitting wind
 Makes flexible the knees of knotted oaks,
 50 And flies flee under shade, why then the thing of courage,
 As roused with rage, with rage doth sympathize,
 And with an accent tuned in self-same key
 Retorts to chiding Fortune.

ULYSSES Agamemnon,
 Thou great commander, nerve and bone of Greece,
 55 Heart of our numbers, soul, and only spirit,
 In whom the tempers and the minds of all
 Should be shut up, hear what Ulysses speaks.
 Besides the applause and approbation
 The which, most mighty for thy place and sway—
 60 [*To Nestor*] And thou, most reverend for thy stretched-out life—
 I give to both your speeches—which were such
 As Agamemnon, worthy hand of Greece,
 Should hold up high in brass, and such again
 As, venerable Nestor, hatched in silver,
 65 Should with a bond of air, strong as the axle-tree
 On which the heavens ride, knit all Greeks' ears
 To his experienced tongue—yet let it please both—
 Thou great—and wise—to hear Ulysses speak.

AGAMEMNON Speak, prince of Ithaca; and be't of less expect
 70 That matter needless, of importless burden,
 Divide thy lips than we are confident
 When rank Thersites opes his mastic jaws
 We shall hear music, wit, and oracle.

ULYSSES Troy, yet upon his basis, had been down,
 75 And the great Hector's sword had lacked a master,
 But for these instances.
 The specialty of rule hath been neglected;
 And look how many Grecian tents do stand
 Hollow upon this plain: so many hollow factions.
 80 When that the general is not like the hive
 To whom the foragers shall all repair,
 What honey is expected? Degree being vizarded,
 Th'unworthiest shows as fairly in the mask.

3.47 breeze gadfly

3.49 knees 'knee-timber' (usually oak for shipbuilding; tough and least flexible wood)

3.49 knotted gnarled

3.51 sympathize have affinity

3.52 accent modulation of voice

3.53 Retorts echoes back the sound

3.54 nerve sinew

3.56 tempers dispositions

3.57 shut up encapsulated

3.58 applause approval (not necessarily hand-clapping)

3.59 place and sway position and power

3.63 in brass engraved in brass, permanently recorded

3.64 hatched etched, inlaid (alluding to Nestor's white hair and beard)

3.65 bond of air (Artists sometimes drew lines joining a speaker's mouth to a hearer's ear.)

3.65 axle-tree the axis on which the universe was imagined to revolve (Earth being at the centre)

3.69 expect expectation

3.70 importless burden irrelevant meaning

3.72 rank stinking, loathsome, coarse

3.72 mastic a yellowish resin used to fill decaying teeth (perhaps recalls the obsolete suffix '-mastix', meaning 'scourge')

3.74 yet . . . down still standing on its foundation, would have been destroyed

3.76 instances causes

3.77 speciality contractual obligations (of ruler and subject)

3.82 Degree natural and social hierarchy; high rank

3.82 vizarded masked, concealed

3.84 this centre (the Earth)

The heavens themselves, the planets, and this centre
 85 Observe degree, priority, and place,
 In fixture, course, proportion, season, form,
 Office, and custom, in all line of order.
 And therefore is the glorious planet Sol
 In noble eminence enthroned and sphered
 90 Amidst the other, whose med'cinable eye
 Corrects the ill aspects of planets evil,
 And posts, like the commandment of a king,
 Sans check, to good and bad. But when the planets
 In evil mixture to disorder wander,
 95 What plagues and what portents, what mutiny!
 What raging of the sea, shaking of earth,
 Commotion in the winds! Frights, changes, horrors
 Divert and crack, rend and deracinate
 The unity and married calm of states
 100 Quite from their fixture! O, when degree is shaken,
 Which is the ladder to all high designs,
 The enterprise is sick. How could communities,
 Degrees in schools, and brotherhoods in cities,
 Peaceful commerce from dividable shores,
 105 The primogeniture and due of birth,
 Prerogative of age, crowns, sceptres, laurels,
 But by degree stand in authentic place?
 Take but degree away, untune that string,
 And hark what discord follows. Each thing meets
 110 In mere oppugnancy. The bounded waters
 Should lift their bosoms higher than the shores,
 And make a sop of all this solid globe.
 Strength should be lord of imbecility,
 And the rude son should strike his father dead.
 115 Force should be right. Or rather, right and wrong,
 Between whose endless jar justice resides,
 Should lose their names, and so should justice too.
 Then every thing includes itself in power,
 Power into will, will into appetite;
 120 And appetite, an universal wolf,

3.86 **fixture** fixity

3.86 **course** predictable trajectory; regular habits

3.86 **proportion** symmetry

3.87 **Office** function, place in the scheme of things

3.88 **planet Sol** (In the Ptolemaic system the sun was thought to be a planet revolving round the earth.)

3.89 **sphered** placed in its proper orbit

3.90 **other** rest

3.90 **whose** (the sun's)

3.90 **med'cinable** curative (as kings claimed to be)

3.90 **eye** (Eyes were thought to see by emitting rays (like the sun) that touched the objects being perceived.)

3.91 **ill aspects** unfavourable astrological influence; filthy expressions; sickly appearances

3.92 **posts** hastens

3.93 **Sans** without

3.94 **evil mixture** ominous conjunctions, wicked coupling

3.94 **wander** (*Planets* means 'wanderers', referring to their erratic courses as seen from earth, unlike the fixed stars.)

3.95 **mutiny** rebellion

3.97 **changes** political instability

3.98 **deracinate** uproot

3.101 **designs** projects

3.103 **Degrees in schools** academic rank

3.103 **brotherhoods** guilds

3.104 **from dividable shores** between lands on either side of the sea

3.104 **dividable** dividing; potentially hostile; otherwise separate; reached by voyagers navigating using compasses (= dividers)

3.106 **laurels** (as emblems of victory or excellence in poetry)

3.110 **mere oppugancy** total opposition

3.112 **sop** lump of bread soaked in water or wine

3.113 **imbecility** feebleness (not modern 'idiocy')

3.114 **rude** violent, uncivil

3.115–16 **right . . . resides** Justice stands between right and wrong (which are in peril), defining which is which and preventing perpetual 'jar' (conflict).

3.118 **includes** encloses, subsumes

So doubly seconded with will and power,
 Must make perforce an universal prey,
 And, last, eat up himself. Great Agamemnon,
 This chaos, when degree is suffocate,
 125 Follows the choking,
 And this neglection of degree it is
 That by a pace goes backward in a purpose
 It hath to climb. The general's disdained
 By him one step below; he, by the next,
 130 That next, by him beneath; so every step,
 Exemplified by the first pace that is sick
 Of his superior, grows to an envious fever
 Of pale and bloodless emulation.
 And 'tis this fever that keeps Troy on foot,
 135 Not her own sinews. To end a tale of length,
 Troy in our weakness lives, not in her strength.
 NESTOR Most wisely hath Ulysses here discovered
 The fever whereof all our power is sick.
 AGAMEMNON The nature of the sickness found, Ulysses,
 140 What is the remedy?
 ULYSSES The great Achilles, whom opinion crowns
 The sinew and the forehead of our host,
 Having his ear full of his airy fame,
 Grows dainty of his worth, and in his tent
 145 Lies mocking our designs. With him, Patroclus
 Upon a lazy bed the live-long day
 Breaks scurrile jests,
 And with ridiculous and awkward action,
 Which, slanderer, he 'imitation' calls,
 150 He pageants us. Sometime, great Agamemnon,
 Thy topless deputation he puts on;
 And, like a strutting player, whose conceit
 Lies in his hamstring, and doth think it rich
 To hear the wooden dialogue and sound
 155 'Twixt his stretched footing and the scaffoldage,
 Such to-be-pitied and o'er-wrested seeming
 He acts thy greatness in. And when he speaks,
 'Tis like a chime a-mending, with terms unsquared
 Which, from the tongue of roaring Typhon dropped,

3.124 **suffocate** suffocated

3.126 **neglection** neglect

3.127–8 **That . . . climb** that drops back step by step when it intends to climb

3.133 **bloodless** pallid (suggesting envy and sickness)

3.133 **emulation** grudging envy

3.134 **on foot** standing

3.137 **discovered** revealed

3.141 **opinion** consensus

3.142 **sinew** muscle

3.143 **airy** lofty; insubstantial

3.144 **dainty** fastidious

3.144 **of** about; because of

3.147 **scurrile** scurrilous

3.148 **action** gesture, movement

3.149 **imitation** realistic representation

3.150 **pageants** mimics

3.151 **topless deputation** supreme position as leader

3.152 **conceit** vanity; imagination

3.154 **wooden dialogue** plodding sound of his feet on the boards (like dull speech)

3.155 **stretched footing** elongated strides

3.155 **scaffoldage** platform, stage

3.156 **o'er-wrested** overstrained

3.158 **chime a-mending** set of bells sounded while being tuned (so discordant)

3.158 **terms unsquared** unbecoming expressions

3.159 **Typhon** a volcano (originally, Typhon was a monster with a hundred heads, each uttering the cry of a different beast, who was eventually buried under a volcano)

3.160 **fusty** stale-smelling; hinting at 'fustian' = bombast

- 160 Would seem hyperboles. At this fusty stuff,
The large Achilles, on his pressed bed lolling,
From his deep chest laughs out a loud applause,
Cries 'Excellent! 'Tis Agamemnon just.
Now play me Nestor; "hmm" and stroke thy beard,
165 As he being dressed to some oration.'
That's done as near as the extremest ends
Of parallels, as like as Vulcan and his wife.
Yet god Achilles still cries 'Excellent!
'Tis Nestor right. Now play him me, Patroclus,
170 Arming to answer in a night-alarm.'
And then forsooth the faint defects of age
Must be the scene of mirth: to cough and spit,
And with a palsy, fumbling on his gorget,
Shake in and out the rivet. And at this sport
175 Sir Valour dies, cries 'O, enough, Patroclus,
Or give me ribs of steel! I shall split all
In pleasure of my spleen.' And in this fashion
All our abilities, gifts, natures, shapes,
Severals and generals of grace exact,
180 Achievements, plots, orders, preventions,
Excitements to the field or speech for truce,
Success or loss, what is or is not, serves
As stuff for these two to make paradoxes.
- NESTOR And in the imitation of these twain,
185 Who, as Ulysses says, opinion crowns
With an imperial voice, many are infect.
Ajax is grown self-willed, and bears his head
In such a rein, in full as proud a place,
As broad Achilles, and keeps his tent like him,
190 Makes factious feasts, rails on our state of war,
Bold as an oracle, and sets Thersites,
A slave whose gall coins slanders like a mint,
To match us in comparisons with dirt,
To weaken and discredit our exposure,
195 How rank soever rounded in with danger.
- ULYSSES They tax our policy and call it cowardice,
Count wisdom as no member of the war,
Forestall prescience, and esteem no act
But that of hand. The still and mental parts

- 3.163 **just** exactly
3.165 **being dressed to** preparing for
3.167 **parallels** (as lines that are permanently separate)
3.167 **Vulcan** (the limping smith-god)
3.167 **his wife** (Venus, goddess of love)
3.168 **god** (Achilles was semi-divine (his mother being Thetis, the sea-goddess), but Ulysses is being derisive.)
3.170 **answer in** respond to
3.172 **scene of** occasion for
3.173 **palsy** trembling
3.173 **gorget** throat armour
3.174 **rivet** bolt for fastening armour
3.175 **Sir Valour** Ulysses' mocking epithet for Achilles
3.175 **dies** (from laughing)
3.176 **all** completely
3.177 **spleen** (regarded as origin of laughter)

- 3.179 **Severals . . . exact** consummate merits, both individual and shared in common
3.181 **Excitements** incitements, rousing orations
3.183 **paradoxes** inversions of truth, absurdities
3.185–6 **crowns . . . voice** acclaims as emperors
3.186 **infect** infected
3.188 **In such a rein** so haughtily (like a reined horse)
3.189 **keeps** stays in
3.190 **rails on** rants on about
3.192 **gall** rancour
3.194 **exposure** vulnerability
3.195 **rank** grossly, excessively
3.195 **rounded in** hemmed in
3.196 **tax** criticize
3.197 **member of** participant in
3.198 **Forestall** obstruct

200 That do contrive how many hands shall strike
 When fitness call them on, and know by measure
 Of their observant toil the enemy's weight,
 Why, this hath not a finger's dignity.
 They call this 'bed-work', 'mapp'ry', 'closet-war';
 205 So that the ram that batters down the wall,
 For the great swinge and rudeness of his peise,
 They place before his hand that made the engine,
 Or those that with the fineness of their souls
 By reason guide his execution.

210 NESTOR Let this be granted and Achilles' horse
 Makes many Thetis' sons.

AGAMEMNON What trumpet? Look, Menelaus.

MENELAUS From Troy.

Enter Aeneas [and trumpeters]

AGAMEMNON What would you 'fore our tent?

215 AENEAS Is this great Agamemnon's tent, I pray you?

AGAMEMNON Even this.

AENEAS May one that is a herald and a prince
 Do a fair message to his kingly ears?

AGAMEMNON With surety stronger than Achilles' arm,

220 Fore all the Greekish hearts, which with one voice
 Call Agamemnon head and general.

AENEAS Fair leave and large security. How may
 A stranger to those most imperial looks
 Know them from eyes of other mortals?

AGAMEMNON How?

225 AENEAS Ay. I ask, that I might waken reverence,
 Or bid the cheek be ready with a blush
 Modest as morning when she coldly eyes
 The youthful Phoebus:

Which is that god in office guiding men?

230 Which is the high and mighty Agamemnon?

AGAMEMNON [*to the Greeks*] This Trojan scorns us, or the men of Troy
 Are ceremonious courtiers.

AENEAS Courtiers as free, as debonair, unarmed,
 As bending angels: that's their fame in peace.

235 But when they would seem soldiers, they have galls,
 Good arms, strong joints, true swords, and great Jove's action

Tucket 3.211 *Tucket* The fanfare on
 trumpets is heard from
 within.

3.213.1 *trumpeters* Or
 alternatively just one. They or
 he may remain offstage.

3.201 *fitness* appropriate opportunity

3.202 *weight* power

3.204 *mapp'ry* map-making (merely drawing plans and not
 acting)

3.206 *swinge* impetus, forceful movement

3.206 *rudeness* violence

3.206 *peise* forcible impact

3.207 *his hand that* the hand of him who

3.207 *engine* machinery (here, the ram)

3.208 *fineness* subtlety, astuteness

3.209 *his execution* its (the ram's) use

3.210 Let . . . and if . . . then

3.211 *Makes* is equal in value to

3.211 *Thetis* (Achilles' mother)

3.211 *Tucket* trumpet call

3.217 *prince* Aeneas was Priam's cousin.

3.219 *surety* security, guarantee

3.222 *large* generous

3.227 *morning* Aurora, the 'blushing' dawn personified

3.228 *Phoebus* Apollo, the sun god (youthful because in early
 morning)

3.229 *god in office* ruler whose office gives him the absolute power
 of a god

3.233 *free* generous

3.234 *bending* ministering

3.235 *would seem* wish to act like

3.235 *galls* spirit to resist injury or insult

3.236 *action* military action, combat

3.237 *Nothing so* is nothing like as

3.237 *heart* courage

- Nothing so full of heart. But peace, Aeneas;
 Peace, Trojan; lay thy finger on thy lips.
 The worthiness of praise distains his worth
 240 If that the praised himself bring the praise forth.
 But what the repining enemy commends,
 That breath Fame blows; that praise, sole pure, transcends.
- AGAMEMNON Sir, you of Troy, call you yourself Aeneas?
 AENEAS Ay, Greek, that is my name.
 AGAMEMNON What's your affair, I pray you?
- 245 AENEAS Sir, pardon; 'tis for Agamemnon's ears.
 AGAMEMNON He hears naught privately that comes from Troy.
 AENEAS Nor I from Troy come not to whisper him.
 I bring a trumpet to awake his ear,
 To set his sense on the attentive bent,
 250 And then to speak.
- AGAMEMNON Speak frankly as the wind.
 It is not Agamemnon's sleeping hour.
 That thou shalt know, Trojan, he is awake,
 He tells thee so himself.
- AENEAS Trumpet, blow loud.
 Send thy brass voice through all these lazy tents,
 255 And every Greek of mettle, let him know
 What Troy means fairly shall be spoke aloud.
- The trumpets sound*
- We have, great Agamemnon, here in Troy
 A prince called Hector—Priam is his father—
 Who in this dull and long-continued truce
 260 Is resty grown. He bade me take a trumpet,
 And to this purpose speak: Kings, princes, lords,
 If there be one amongst the fair'st of Greece
 That holds his honour higher than his ease,
 That seeks his praise more than he fears his peril,
 265 That knows his valour and knows not his fear,
 That loves his mistress more than in confession
 With truant vows to her own lips he loves,
 And dare avow her beauty and her worth
 In other arms than hers: to him this challenge.
- 270 Hector, in view of Trojans and of Greeks,
 Shall make it good, or do his best to do it,
 He hath a lady wiser, fairer, truer
 Than ever Greek did compass in his arms,
 And will tomorrow with his trumpet call
 275 Midway between your tents and walls of Troy,
 To rouse a Grecian that is true in love.
 If any come, Hector shall honour him.

3.239 **distains** stains3.241 **repining** grudging3.242 **That breath Fame blows** (The goddess Fame was depicted with a trumpet.)3.250 **frankly** freely3.253 **Trumpet** trumpeter3.259 **long-continued truce** (suggesting that some time has passed between Sc. 2 and Sc. 3)3.260 **resty** restive3.266 **loves** will declare his love for3.267 **truant** casual, trivial, idle3.269 **In other arms** in armour3.273 **compass** encompass, hold

If none, he'll say in Troy when he retires,
 The Grecian dames are sunburnt, and not worth
 280 The splinter of a lance. Even so much.
 AGAMEMNON This shall be told our lovers, Lord Aeneas.
 If none of them have soul in such a kind,
 We left them all at home. But we are soldiers,
 And may that soldier a mere recreant prove
 285 That means not, hath not, or is not in love.
 If then one is, or hath, or means to be,
 That one meets Hector. If none else, I'll be he.
 NESTOR [*to Aeneas*] Tell him of Nestor, one that was a man
 When Hector's grandsire sucked. He is old now,
 290 But if there be not in our Grecian mould
 One noble man that hath one spark of fire
 To answer for his love, tell him from me
 I'll hide my silver beard in a gold beaver,
 And in my vambrace put this withered brawn,
 295 And, meeting him, will tell him that my lady
 Was fairer than his grandam, and as chaste
 As may be in the world. His youth in flood,
 I'll prove this truth with my three drops of blood.
 AENEAS Now heavens forbid such scarcity of youth!
 300 ULYSSES Amen.
 AGAMEMNON Fair Lord Aeneas, let me touch your hand.
 To our pavilion shall I lead you first.
 Achilles shall have word of this intent,
 So shall each lord of Greece from tent to tent.
 305 Yourself shall feast with us before you go,
 And find the welcome of a noble foe.

Exeunt; manent Ulysses and Nestor

ULYSSES Nestor.
 NESTOR What says Ulysses?
 ULYSSES I have a young conception in my brain.
 310 Be you my Time to bring it to some shape.
 NESTOR What is't?
 ULYSSES This 'tis:
 Blunt wedges rive hard knots; the seeded pride
 That hath to this maturity blown up
 315 In rank Achilles must or now be cropped
 Or, shedding, breed a nursery of like evil
 To overbulk us all.
 NESTOR Well, and how?
 ULYSSES This challenge that the gallant Hector sends,
 However it is spread in general name,

3.307 **Nestor** He is
 presumably about to follow
 the rest.

3.279 **sunburnt** not fashionably fair-skinned

3.280 **splinter** breaking; fragment

3.280 **Even so much** this is what Hector hereby declares

3.285 **means not, hath not** does not intend to be, never has been

3.289 **sucked** suckled

3.290 **mould** nature; matter from which human beings are formed
 (earth); model, pattern (of chivalry)

3.293 **beaver** lower face-guard of helmet

3.294 **vambrace** armour for forearm

3.294 **brawn** arm-muscles

3.297 **His youth in flood** although he is in the prime of life

3.301 **touch** take

3.306.1 **manent** [they] remain on stage (theatre Latin)

3.310 **Time** gestation period (alluding to Nestor's age)

3.313 **Blunt wedges rive hard knots** (proverbial)

3.314 **blown** swelled

3.315 **rank** overgrown

3.315 **or** either

3.316 **shedding** dispersing its seeds

320 Relates in purpose only to Achilles.

NESTOR The purpose is perspicuous, even as substance
Whose grossness little characters sum up;
And in the publication make no strain
But that Achilles, were his brain as barren
325 As banks of Libya—though, Apollo knows,
'Tis dry enough—will with great speed of judgement,
Ay, with celerity, find Hector's purpose
Pointing on him.

ULYSSES And wake him to the answer, think you?

NESTOR Yes, 'tis most meet. Who may you else oppose

330 That can from Hector bring his honour off,
If not Achilles? Though't be a sportful combat,
Yet in this trial much opinion dwells.
For here the Trojans taste our dear'st repute
With their fin'st palate; and trust to me, Ulysses,
335 Our imputation shall be oddly peised
In this wild action; for the success,
Although particular, shall give a scantling
Of good or bad unto the general;
And in such indexes, although small pricks
340 To their subsèquent volumes, there is seen
The baby figure of the giant mass
Of things to come at large. It is supposed
He that meets Hector issues from our choice;
And choice, being mutual act of all our souls,
345 Makes merit her election, and doth boil,
As 'twere from forth us all, a man distilled
Out of our virtues; who miscarrying,
What heart from hence receives the conqu'ring part
To steel a strong opinion to themselves!—
350 Which entertained, limbs are e'en his instruments,
In no less working than are swords and bows
Directive by the limbs.

ULYSSES Give pardon to my speech.

Therefore 'tis meet Achilles meet not Hector.

Let us, like merchants, show our foulest wares,

355 And think perchance they'll sell; if not,

3.321 **substance** matter; wealth; content, purport

3.322 **Whose . . . up** the large quantity of which is written in or added up from small numbers; the gross quality of which is described in small letters or words; the gross personality of which is expressed in cumulative minor traits

3.323 **publication** announcement

3.323 **make no strain** do not doubt

3.325 **banks of Libya** the Sahara desert where it meets the sea

3.326 **dry** infertile, imaginative

3.328 **him** himself

3.329 **meet** fitting

3.332 **opinion** reputation

3.335 **imputation** prestige

3.335 **oddly** unevenly, irregularly

3.335 **peised** weighed

3.336 **wild** uncontrollable, reckless

3.336 **success** result

3.337 **particular** relating to only one person

3.337 **scantling** sketch, sample, guideline

3.338 **general** the whole army

3.339 **indexes** indications, pointers, tables of contents

3.339 **pricks** indications, pointers

3.340 **To** compared to

3.340 **volumes** books; quantities

3.345 **election** grounds of choice

3.347 **who miscarrying** if he loses

3.348 **heart** confidence

3.348 **the conqu'ring part** the Trojans

3.350 **Which entertained** once this 'strong opinion' is established

3.350 **his** its (or opinion is personified as a new steward or guest in a household)

3.351 **In no less working** no less effective

3.352 **Directive** directable

The lustre of the better yet to show
 Shall show the better. Do not consent
 That ever Hector and Achilles meet;
 For both our honour and our shame in this
 360 Are dogged with two strange followers.
 NESTOR I see them not with my old eyes. What are they?
 ULYSSES What glory our Achilles shares from Hector,
 Were he not proud, we all should wear with him;
 But he already is too insolent,
 365 And we were better parch in Affric sun
 Than in the pride and salt scorn of his eyes
 Should he scape Hector fair. If he were foiled,
 Why, then we did our main opinion crush
 In taint of our best man. No. Make a lott'ry,
 370 And by device let blockish Ajax draw
 The sort to fight with Hector. Among ourselves
 Give him allowance as the worthier man,
 For that will physic the great Myrmidon,
 Who broils in loud applause, and make him fall
 375 His crest that prouder than blue Iris bends.
 If the dull, brainless Ajax come safe off,
 We'll dress him up in voices. If he fail,
 Yet go we under our opinion still
 That we have better men. But hit or miss,
 380 Our project's life this shape of sense assumes:
 Ajax employed plucks down Achilles' plumes.
 NESTOR Now, Ulysses, I begin to relish thy advice,
 And I will give a taste of it forthwith
 To Agamemnon. Go we to him straight.
 385 Two curs shall tame each other. Pride alone
 Must tarre the mastiffs on, as 'twere their bone.

Exeunt

Sc. 4

2.1 *Enter Ajax and Thersites*

AJAX Thersites!
 THERSITES Agamemnon: how if he had boils full all over generally?—
 AJAX Thersites!
 THERSITES And those boils did run?—say so: did not the general run?
 5 Were not that a botchy core?
 AJAX Dog!
 THERSITES Then there would come some matter from him. I see none
 now.

2.1 4.0 *Ajax* a muscular if not overweight warrior
 4.0 *Thersites* A scurrilous commentator, originally no doubt a role for the company's fool. He is probably ugly. In Homer, he is bow-legged and lame.

3.360 *strange followers* unfavourable consequences (namely, Achilles' even greater pride, or the loss of our best soldier)
 3.362 *shares from* gains at the expense of
 3.366 *salt* bitter, pungent
 3.368 *our main opinion* chief source of our reputation
 3.371 *sort* lot
 3.372 *allowance* acknowledgement
 3.373 *physic* give medicine to, purge
 3.373 *Myrmidon* (Achilles led the Myrmidons, legendary fighters supposed to have been created from ants, which were called *myrmēkes* in ancient Greek.)
 3.374 *broils in* is excited by; quarrels, causes trouble to

3.374 *fall* lower
 3.375 *Iris* goddess of the rainbow; blue flower
 3.377 *dress him up in voices* sing his praises
 3.384 *straight* straight away
 3.385 *Two . . . other* (proverbial)
 3.386 *tarre . . . on* incite
 2.1 4.2 *full* (of pus)
 4.2 *generally* (quibbling on 'general')
 4.4 *run* (quibbling on 'run away')
 4.5 *botchy core* ulcerous centre of boil
 4.7 *matter* pus; substance, sense

AJAX Thou bitch-wolf's son, canst thou not hear? Feel then.

Strikes him

10 THERSITES The plague of Greece upon thee, thou mongrel beef-witted lord!

AJAX Speak then, thou vinewd'st leaven, speak. I will beat thee into handsomeness.

THERSITES I shall sooner rail thee into wit and holiness. But I think
15 thy horse will sooner con an oration than thou learn a prayer without book. Thou canst strike, canst thou? A red murrain o' thy jade's tricks!

AJAX Toadstool! Learn me the proclamation.

THERSITES Dost thou think I have no sense thou strik'st me thus?

20 AJAX The proclamation.

THERSITES Thou art proclaimed a fool, I think.

AJAX Do not, porcupine, do not. My fingers itch.

THERSITES I would thou didst itch from head to foot and I had the scratching of thee. I would make thee the loathsom'st scab in Greece.

25 AJAX I say, the proclamation.

THERSITES Thou grumblest and railest every hour on Achilles, and thou art as full of envy at his greatness as Cerberus is at Proserpina's beauty—ay, that thou bark'st at him.

AJAX Mistress Thersites!

30 THERSITES Thou shouldst strike him.

AJAX Cob-loaf!

THERSITES He would pound thee into shivers with his fist, as a sailor breaks a biscuit.

AJAX You whoreson cur!

[Strikes him]

35 THERSITES Do, do!

AJAX Thou stool for a witch!

[Strikes him]

THERSITES Ay, do, do! Thou sodden-witted lord, thou hast no more brain than I have in mine elbows. An *asnico* may tutor thee. Thou scurvy-valiant ass! Thou art here but to thrash Trojans, and thou art
40 bought and sold among those of any wit like a barbarian slave. If thou use to beat me, I will begin at thy heel and tell what thou art by inches, thou thing of no bowels, thou.

AJAX You dog!

4.9.1 *Strikes him* Ajax is likely to strike Thersites repeatedly, for instance also after 'book' (4.16) and 'Toadstool' (4.18).

4.10 **plague of Greece** (punning on 'grease', but the main meaning is unclear)

4.10 **mongrel** (Ajax's mother was Trojan.)

4.10 **beef-witted** (Eating beef was thought to dull the brain.)

4.12 **vinewd'st** mouldiest

4.12 **leaven** sourdough (starting culture for bread)

4.13 **handsomeness** decency; attractive shape

4.15 **con** memorize

4.15–16 **without book** by heart

4.16 **red** causing reddened skin or bleeding

4.16 **murrain** plague

4.16 **jade's** worthless horse's (as might kick)

4.18 **Learn me** teach me (the contents of)

4.19 **sense** sense of feeling that

4.22 **porcupine** (supposed to dart its poisonous spines at enemies)

4.22 **itch** (to hit Thersites)

4.27 **Cerberus** (monstrous dog guarding gate of Hades)

4.27 **Proserpina** (wife of Pluto, god of underworld)

4.29 **Mistress** (because a woman's only weapon was thought to be her tongue)

4.31 **Cob-loaf** small rounded loaf shaped like a head

4.32 **shivers** pieces

4.33 **biscuit** dry flatbread (taken on voyages)

4.35 **Do, do** go on, go on

4.38 **asnico** little donkey (Spanish)

4.40 **bought and sold** bandied back and forth, manipulated

4.41 **use** continue

4.41 **by inches** inch by inch

4.42 **of no bowels** having no compassion

THERSITES You scurvy lord!

45 AJAX You cur!

[Strikes him]

THERSITES Mars his idiot! Do, rudeness! Do, camel, do, do!

Enter Achilles and Patroclus

ACHILLES Why, how now, Ajax? Wherefore do you this?

How now, Thersites? What's the matter, man?

THERSITES You see him there, do you?

50 ACHILLES Ay. What's the matter?

THERSITES Nay, look upon him.

ACHILLES So I do. What's the matter?

THERSITES Nay, but regard him well.

ACHILLES Well, why I do so.

55 THERSITES But yet you look not well upon him; for whosoever you take him to be, he is Ajax.

ACHILLES I know that, fool.

THERSITES Ay, but that fool knows not himself.

AJAX Therefore I beat thee.

60 THERSITES Lo, lo, lo, lo, what modicums of wit he utters! His evasions have ears thus long. I have bobbed his brain more than he has beat my bones. I will buy nine sparrows for a penny, and his *pia mater* is not worth the ninth part of a sparrow. This lord, Achilles, Ajax, who wears his wit in his belly and his guts in his head, I'll tell you what I say of him.

65 ACHILLES What?

THERSITES I say this Ajax—

[Ajax offers to strike him]

ACHILLES Nay, good Ajax.

THERSITES Has not so much wit—

[Ajax offers to strike him]

ACHILLES [to Ajax] Nay, I must hold you.

70 THERSITES As will stop the eye of Helen's needle, for whom he comes to fight.

ACHILLES Peace, fool.

THERSITES I would have peace and quietness, but the fool will not—he there, that he, look you there.

75 AJAX O thou damned cur, I shall—

ACHILLES [to Ajax] Will you set your wit to a fool's?

THERSITES No, I warrant you, for a fool's will shame it.

PATROCLUS Good words, Thersites.

ACHILLES [to Ajax] What's the quarrel?

80 AJAX I bade the vile owl go learn me the tenor of the proclamation, and he rails upon me.

4.46.1 *Achilles* a mighty warrior grown stubbornly proud and inactive

4.46.1 *Patroclus* Small in stature according to Thersites (16.13–30), so perhaps originally played by a boy actor (and see 21.2). He may be affected in manner. His relationship with Achilles is homoerotic or homosexual.

4.55 But . . . *him* Thersites probably pretends amazement that Achilles can look at Ajax and yet not 'see' what a fool he is.

4.61 *thus long* Thersites demonstrates (exaggeratedly?) the length of an ass's ears, perhaps against Ajax's body.

4.46 Mars his idiot Mars' jester

4.55 whosoever whomsoever

4.56 Ajax (punning on 'a jakes' meaning 'toilet')

4.58 Ay . . . himself (Thersites alters Achilles' address to him as 'fool', making 'that fool' refer to Ajax.)

4.59 therefore for calling me a fool

4.60 Lo behold! (sarcastic)

4.60 evasions defensive replies (as distinct from pointed sallies of wit)

4.61 bobbed thumped

4.62 *pia mater* brain (now used for just a small part of it; Latin for 'dear mother', itself a translation from Arabic)

4.69 hold restrain

4.70 eye . . . needle (punning on 'vagina . . . vulva')

4.73 the fool Ajax

4.76 set . . . to match . . . against

4.78 Good words probably ironic; or 'well said'; or 'stop being so offensive'

4.80 owl (proverbial for its screeching voice, foretelling evil)

- THERSITES I serve thee not.
 AJAX Well, go to, go to.
 THERSITES I serve here voluntary.
 85 ACHILLES Your last service was sufferance, 'twas not voluntary; no
 man is beaten voluntary. Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under
 an impress.
 THERSITES E'en so. A great deal of your wit too lies in your sinews,
 or else there be liars. Hector shall have a great catch if he knock out
 90 either of your brains; he were as good crack a fusty nut with no kernel.
 ACHILLES What, with me too, Thersites?
 THERSITES There's Ulysses and old Nestor, whose wit was mouldy ere
 your grandsires had nails on their toes, yoke you like draught oxen,
 and make you plough up the war.
 95 ACHILLES What, what?
 THERSITES Yes, good sooth. To, Achilles! To, Ajax! To!
 AJAX I shall cut out your tongue.
 THERSITES 'Tis no matter; I shall speak as much wit as thou afterwards.
 PATROCLUS No more words, Thersites.
 100 THERSITES I will hold my peace when Achilles' brach bids me, shall I?
 ACHILLES There's for you, Patroclus.
 THERSITES I will see you hanged like clot-polls ere I come any more to
 your tents. I will keep where there is wit stirring, and leave the faction
 of fools. *Exit*
 105 PATROCLUS A good riddance!
 ACHILLES *[to Ajax]* Marry, this, sir, is proclaimed through all our host:
 That Hector by the fifth hour of the sun
 Will with a trumpet, 'twixt our tents and Troy,
 Tomorrow morning call some knight to arms
 110 That hath a stomach, and such a one that dare
 Maintain—I know not what. 'Tis trash. Farewell.
 AJAX Farewell. Who shall answer him?
 ACHILLES I know not. 'Tis put to lott'ry; otherwise
 He knew his man. *[Exit with Patroclus]*
 115 AJAX O, meaning you. I will go learn more of it. *Exit*

Sc. 5

2.2 *Enter Priam, Hector, Troilus, Paris, and Helenus*

- PRIAM After so many hours, lives, speeches spent,
 Thus once again says Nestor from the Greeks:
 'Deliver Helen, and all damage else—
 As honour, loss of time, travail, expense,
 5 Wounds, friends, and what else dear that is consumed
 In hot digestion of this cormorant war—
 Shall be struck off.' Hector, what say you to't?
 HECTOR Though no man lesser fears the Greeks than I
 As far as touches my particular, yet, dread Priam,
 10 There is no lady of more softer bowels,

2.2 5.0 *Enter . . . Helenus*

The scene is set in the palace in Troy. A sennet might mark the arrival of the Trojan king and his sons.

4.84 **voluntary** as a volunteer

4.85 **sufferance** an imposed punishment as of a felon

4.87 **an impress** conscription; a press for stamping coins

4.94 **war** (punning on *ware* = 'crops')

4.96 **To** a cry used for urging draught animals forward

4.100 **brach** bitch-hound

4.102 **clot-polls** blockheads

4.107 **fifth hour** 11 a.m.

4.110 **stomach** appetite (for fighting)

2.2 5.3 **damage** compensation for loss

5.6 **cormorant** rapacious

5.7 **struck off** cancelled

5.9 **particular** own concerns

5.10 **more softer bowels** gentler compassion; weaker heart

More spongy to suck in the sense of fear,
 More ready to cry out 'Who knows what follows?',
 Than Hector is. The wound of peace is surety,
 Surety secure; but modest doubt is called
 15 The beacon of the wise, the tent that searches
 To th' bottom of the worst. Let Helen go.
 Since the first sword was drawn about this question,
 Every tithe soul, 'mongst many thousand dimes,
 Hath been as dear as Helen—I mean, of ours.
 20 If we have lost so many tenths of ours
 To guard a thing not ours, nor worth to us,
 Had it our name, the value of one ten,
 What merit's in that reason which denies
 The yielding of her up?

TROILUS Fie, fie, my brother!

25 Weigh you the worth and honour of a king
 So great as our dread father in a scale
 Of common ounces? Will you with counters sum
 The past proportion of his infinite,
 And buckle in a waist most fathomless
 30 With spans and inches so diminutive
 As fears and reasons? Fie, for godly shame!

HELENUS No marvel though you bite so sharp at reasons,
 You are so empty of them. Should not our father
 Bear the great sway of his affairs with reasons,
 35 Because your speech hath none that tells him so?

TROILUS You are for dreams and slumbers, brother priest.
 You fur your gloves with reason. Here are your reasons:
 You know an enemy intends you harm;
 You know a sword employed is perilous;
 40 And reason flies the object of all harm.
 Who marvels, then, when Helenus beholds
 A Grecian and his sword, if he do set
 The very wings of reason to his heels,
 And fly like chidden Mercury from Jove,
 45 Or like a star disorbed? Nay, if we talk of reason,
 Let's shut our gates and sleep. Manhood and honour
 Should have hare-hearts, would they but fat their thoughts
 With this crammed reason. Reason and respect
 Makes livers pale and lustihood deject.

5.11 **spongy to suck in** ready to absorb

5.13 **surety** (overconfident) feeling of safety

5.14 **modest doubt** a moderate degree of apprehension

5.15 **tent** surgeon's probe

5.18 **tithe** tenth (as a taxation paid on one's goods)

5.18 **dimes** tenths (reckoning each lost life as one such unit)

5.22 **ten** tenth

5.27 **counters** blank coins used in calculating

5.28 **past proportion** measureless

5.29 **waist** middle of the body; *waste*, large and wild territory;
waste, squandering of resources (unintended by Troilus)

5.29 **fathomless** immeasurable even in fathoms (six-foot lengths,
 used in calculating sea depths)

5.30 **spans** measures of a hand-span

5.32 **reasons** (punning on 'raisins', which it sounded like in early
 modern pronunciation)

5.37 **fur your gloves** make yourself warm and comfortable

5.37 **reasons** reasonings, rationalizations

5.40 **flies** flees

5.40 **object of all harm** sight of anything harmful

5.44 **Mercury** (god of messengers, usually pictured with wings
 on his heels; once arraigned before Jove for stealing cattle, and
 ordered by Jove to return them)

5.45 **star disorbed** shooting star

5.47 **hare** (given to running away)

5.47 **would . . . thoughts** if they fattened their thoughts only

5.48 **crammed** stuffed-in, force-fed

5.48 **respect** consideration, caution

5.49 **livers** (regarded as the seat of the passions)

5.49 **lustihood** energy, valour

- 50 HECTOR Brother, she is not worth what she doth cost the holding.
 TROILUS What's aught, but as 'tis valued?
 HECTOR But value dwells not in particular will.
 It holds his estimate and dignity
 As well wherein 'tis precious of itself
 55 As in the prizer. 'Tis mad idolatry
 To make the service greater than the god;
 And the will dotes that is inclinable
 To what infectiously itself affects
 Without some image of th'affected merit.
- 60 TROILUS I take today a wife, and my election
 Is led on in the conduct of my will;
 My will enkindled by mine eyes and ears,
 Two traded pilots 'twixt the dangerous shores
 Of will and judgement. How may I avoid,
 65 Although my will distaste what it elected,
 The wife I chose? There can be no evasion
 To blench from this and to stand firm by honour.
 We turn not back the silks upon the merchant
 When we have spoiled them, nor the remainder viands
 70 We do not throw in unrespective sieve
 Because we now are full. It was thought meet
 Paris should do some vengeance on the Greeks.
 Your breath of full consent bellied his sails.
 The seas and winds, old wranglers, took a truce
 75 And did him service. He touched the ports desired,
 And, for an old aunt whom the Greeks held captive,
 He brought a Grecian queen whose youth and freshness
 Wrinkles Apollo's and makes stale the morning.
 Why keep we her? The Grecians keep our aunt.
 80 Is she worth keeping? Why, she is a pearl
 Whose price hath launched above a thousand ships,
 And turned crowned kings to merchants.
 If you'll avouch 'twas wisdom Paris went—
 As you must needs, for you all cried 'Go, go!'—
 85 If you'll confess he brought home noble prize—
 As you must needs, for you all clapped your hands
 And cried 'Inestimable!'—why do you now
 The issue of your proper wisdoms rate,

5.50 the holding to keep

5.52 particular will individual desire

5.53 his its

5.57 dotes is foolishly devoted

5.57 inclinable partial

5.58 itself affects it fancies

5.59 image . . . merit concept of actual worth in the admired object

5.60 I take . . . suppose I take . . .

5.60 election choice

5.61 in the conduct under the guidance

5.63 traded well-travelled

5.64 judgement choice merely on rational grounds

5.65 Although . . . elected even if my desire is repelled by what it chose

5.67 To blench whereby to flinch

5.68 turn . . . upon don't return the silks to

5.69 remainder viands leftover food

5.70 unrespective indiscriminating, general

5.70 sieve basket

5.72 vengeance (for kidnapping Priam's sister Hesione)

5.73 bellied swelled with wind

5.75 ports (punning on *port* as 'vagina')

5.76 for as requital for

5.76 aunt She was Hesione (but *aunt* was also slang for 'whore').

5.77 queen probably punning (unintentionally) on *quean* = 'whore'

5.78 stale unintentionally punning on 'sluttish'

5.81 launched . . . ships (This was a well-worn phrase even when Marlowe used it in *Doctor Faustus*.)

5.88 issue result

5.88 proper own

5.88 rate berate, criticize

And do a deed that fortune never did:
 90 Beggar the estimation which you prized
 Richer than sea and land? O, theft most base,
 That we have stol'n what we do fear to keep!—
 But thieves unworthy of a thing so stol'n,
 That in their country did them that disgrace
 95 We fear to warrant in our native place.

Enter Cassandra with her hair about her ears

CASSANDRA Cry, Trojans, cry!

PRIAM What noise, what shriek is this?

TROILUS 'Tis our mad sister; I do know her voice.

CASSANDRA Cry, Trojans!

HECTOR It is Cassandra.

100 CASSANDRA Cry, Trojans, cry! Lend me ten thousand eyes
 And I will fill them with prophetic tears.

HECTOR Peace, sister, peace!

CASSANDRA Virgins and boys, mid-age and wrinkled old,

Soft infancy that nothing canst but cry,
 105 Add to my clamours. Let us pay betimes
 A moiety of that mass of moan to come.
 Cry, Trojans, cry! Practise your eyes with tears!
 Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilium stand.
 Our firebrand brother Paris burns us all.
 110 Cry, Trojans, cry! A Helen and a woe!
 Cry, cry! Troy burns, or else let Helen go.

Exit

HECTOR Now, youthful Troilus, do not these high strains
 Of divination in our sister work
 Some touches of remorse? Or is your blood
 115 So madly hot that no discourse of reason
 Nor fear of bad success in a bad cause
 Can qualify the same?

TROILUS Why, brother Hector,
 We may not think the justness of each act
 Such and no other than event doth form it,
 120 Nor once deject the courage of our minds
 Because Cassandra's mad. Her brainsick raptures
 Cannot distaste the goodness of a quarrel,
 Which hath our several honours all engaged
 To make it gracious. For my private part,
 125 I am no more touched than all Priam's sons;
 And Jove forbid there should be done amongst us

5.95.1 *Enter . . . ears*

Cassandra's first interjections might be called from within. Her wearing of her hair unbound suggests that she is wild, crazed, or divinely inspired, an impression that might be reinforced through her attire and behaviour.

5.89 **do . . . did** act more capriciously than fortune

5.90 **estimation** valued object

5.93 **But** we being no more than

5.94 **That** who

5.94 **their** the Greeks'

5.94 **that disgrace** that disgrace which

5.95 **warrant** attest, protect

5.99 **Cassandra** (She was born with the gift of prophecy, but because she rejected Apollo's love he caused her prophecies to be disregarded.)

5.103 **old** old people

5.105 **betimes** early, before it is due

5.106 **moiety** part

5.106 **mass** (used of sum of money)

5.109 **firebrand** (When pregnant with Paris, Hecuba dreamed of giving birth to a firebrand.)

5.115 **discourse of reason** rational argument

5.116 **success** result, outcome

5.117 **qualify** moderate

5.119 **event** result

5.121 **raptures** transports, states of possession

5.122 **distaste** make distasteful

5.123 **several** separate

Such things as might offend the weakest spleen
To fight for and maintain.

PARIS Else might the world convince of levity
130 As well my undertakings as your counsels.
But I attest the gods, your full consent
Gave wings to my propension, and cut off
All fears attending on so dire a project.
For what, alas, can these my single arms?
135 What propugnation is in one man's valour
To stand the push and enmity of those
This quarrel would excite? Yet I protest,
Were I alone to pass the difficulties
And had as ample power as I have will,
140 Paris should ne'er retract what he hath done,
Nor faint in the pursuit.

PRIAM Paris, you speak
Like one besotted on your sweet delights.
You have the honey still, but these the gall.
So to be valiant is no praise at all.

145 PARIS Sir, I propose not merely to myself
The pleasures such a beauty brings with it,
But I would have the soil of her fair rape
Wiped off in honourable keeping her.
What treason were it to the ransacked queen,
150 Disgrace to your great worths, and shame to me,
Now to deliver her possession up
On terms of base compulsion? Can it be
That so degenerate a strain as this
Should once set footing in your generous bosoms?
155 There's not the meanest spirit on our party
Without a heart to dare or sword to draw
When Helen is defended; nor none so noble
Whose life were ill bestowed or death unfamed
Where Helen is the subject. Then, I say,
160 Well may we fight for her whom we know well
The world's large spaces cannot parallel.

HECTOR Paris and Troilus, you have both said well,
But on the cause and question now in hand
Have glozed but superficially, not much
165 Unlike young men, whom Aristotle thought
Unfit to hear moral philosophy.
The reasons you allege do more conduce

5.127 **weakest spleen** even those least courageous

5.129 **convince** convict

5.131 **attest** call to witness

5.132 **propension** inclination

5.135 **propugnation** defence

5.136 **push** thrust

5.137 **excite** incite (to enmity)

5.138 **pass** undergo

5.144 **So** in such circumstances

5.145 **propose** put forward or offer as something to be attained

5.145 **merely to myself** (presumably modifying *brings*)

5.147 **soil** defilement (of both Helen and Paris)

5.147 **fair** pure, honourable, proper, auspicious, kind

5.147 **rape** abduction; sexual violation (It was often assumed that abduction would lead to rape.)

5.149 **ransacked** carried off as plunder; plundered

5.149 **queen** (probably punning unintentionally on 'quean' = prostitute)

5.151 **her possession** possession of her

5.153 **strain** drift of argument (punning on the sense 'race, breed')

5.154 **generous** noble (in descent and spirit)

5.164 **glozed** expounded, commented

5.166 **moral philosophy** philosophy of political ethics

5.167 **conduce** lead, contribute

To the hot passion of distempered blood
 Than to make up a free determination
 170 'Twixt right and wrong; for pleasure and revenge
 Have ears more deaf than adders to the voice
 Of any true decision. Nature craves
 All dues be rendered to their owners. Now,
 What nearer debt in all humanity
 175 Than wife is to the husband? If this law
 Of nature be corrupted through affection,
 And that great minds of partial indulgence
 To their benumbèd wills resist the same,
 There is a law in each well-ordered nation
 180 To curb those raging appetites that are
 Most disobedient and refractory.
 If Helen then be wife to Sparta's king,
 As it is known she is, these moral laws
 Of nature, and of nation, speak aloud
 185 To have her back returned. Thus to persist
 In doing wrong extenuates not wrong,
 But makes it much more heavy. Hector's opinion
 Is this in way of truth. Yet ne'ertheless,
 My spritely brethren, I propend to you
 190 In resolution to keep Helen still;
 For 'tis a cause that hath no mean dependence
 Upon our joint and several dignities.

TROILUS Why, there you touched the life of our design.

Were it not glory that we more affected
 195 Than the performance of our heaving spleens,
 I would not wish a drop of Trojan blood
 Spent more in her defence. But, worthy Hector,
 She is a theme of honour and renown,
 A spur to valiant and magnanimous deeds
 200 Whose present courage may beat down our foes,
 And fame in time to come canonize us—
 For I presume brave Hector would not lose
 So rich advantage of a promised glory
 As smiles upon the forehead of this action
 205 For the wide world's revèue.

HECTOR I am yours,
 You valiant offspring of great Priamus.
 I have a roisting challenge sent amongst
 The dull and factious nobles of the Greeks
 Will strike amazement to their drowsy spirits.

5.171 **more deaf than adders** (proverbial)

5.172–3 **Nature . . . owners** (proverbial)

5.176 **affection** emotion, partiality

5.177 **of** though

5.177 **partial** prejudiced

5.178 **benumbèd** dulled (to reason)

5.188 **way of** respect to (perhaps punning on *weigh* = 'the scales')

5.189 **spritly** spirited (referring to his brothers Paris and Troilus)

5.189 **propend** incline

5.191 **dependence** impending influence (compare 6.14)

5.192 **several** separate

5.194 **affected** desired

5.195 **performance of our heaving spleens** i.e. execution of spite and resentment

5.199 **magnanimous** courageous, nobly ambitious

5.201 **fame** (cause) fame

5.201 **canonize** to glorify

5.204 **forehead** countenance (also associated with 'opportunity')

5.207 **roisting** roistering, boisterous

5.209 **amazement** alarm, fear, distraction

210 I was advertised their great general slept,
 Whilst emulation in the army crept.
 This I presume will wake him.

Exeunt

5.212 *Exeunt* The exit might be accompanied with a flourish of trumpets, perhaps from within.

Sc. 6

2.3 *Enter Thersites alone*

How now, Thersites? What, lost in the labyrinth of thy fury? Shall the elephant Ajax carry it thus? He beats me, and I rail at him. O worthy satisfaction! Would it were otherwise: that I could beat him whilst he railed at me! 'Sfoot, I'll learn to conjure and raise devils but I'll see some issue of my spiteful execrations. Then there's Achilles, a rare engineer. If Troy be not taken till these two undermine it, the walls will stand till they fall of themselves. O thou great thunder-darter of Olympus, forget that thou art Jove the king of gods—and Mercury, lose all the serpentine craft of thy caduceus—if ye take not that little, little, less than little wit from them that they have!—which short-armed ignorance itself knows is so abundant-scarce it will not in circumvention deliver a fly from a spider without drawing their massy irons and cutting the web. After this, the vengeance on the whole camp—or rather, the bone-ache, for that, methinks, is the curse dependent on those that war for a placket. I have said my prayers, and devil Envy say 'Amen'.—What ho! my lord Achilles!

Enter Patroclus

PATROCLUS Who's there? Thersites! Good Thersites, come in and rail.
 THERSITES If I could have remembered a gilt counterfeit, thou wouldst not have slipped out of my contemplation. But it is no matter. Thyself upon thyself! The common curse of mankind, folly and ignorance, be thine in great revenue! Heaven bless thee from a tutor, and discipline come not near thee! Let thy blood be thy direction till thy death, then if she that lays thee out says thou art a fair corpse, I'll be sworn and sworn upon't she never shrouded any but lazars!
 Amen. Where's Achilles?

PATROCLUS What, art thou devout? Wast thou in a prayer?

THERSITES Ay. The heavens hear me!

Enter Achilles

ACHILLES Who's there?

PATROCLUS Thersites, my lord.

5.210 **advertised** informed that

5.210 **general** (presumably Achilles)

5.211 **emulation** jealous rivalry

2.3 6.2 **elephant** (large, thick-skinned, and clumsy)

6.2 **carry it** get away with it (punning on *carry* as 'bear')

6.2 **and** (perhaps playing on 'an' = if)

6.2–3 **worthy satisfaction** adequate compensation (sarcastic)

6.4 'Sfoot God's foot (an expletive to express anger, like modern 'Christ!')

6.4 **but I'll** if I must in order to

6.5 **issue of** tangible results from

6.5 **engineer** constructor of military earthworks and machines

6.6 **undermine** literally, dig tunnels filled with explosives, to blow up fortifications

6.7 **of by**

6.9 **caduceus** Mercury's emblem, a rod entwined by snakes (Mercury was the patron god of thieves.)

6.10 **short-armed** opposite of 'far-reaching'

6.11 **abundant** abundantly

6.11 **circumvention** the act of outwitting someone else

6.12 **irons** swords

6.14 **dependent** impending

6.15 **placket** petticoat, hence 'woman'; slit in the petticoat, hence 'vagina'

6.18 **gilt counterfeit** forged gold coin elaborately-dressed imitation (of a man)

6.19 **slipped** (punning on 'slip', a counterfeit coin)

6.19 **contemplation** devout meditation

6.20 **Thyself upon thyself!** (as if to be Patroclus were the worse fate to wish on someone)

6.21 **bless** save

6.22 **discipline** learning

6.22 **blood** passion, self-will

6.22 **direction** director, guide

6.23 **fair** untainted by disease; virtuous

6.24 **lazars** lepers (leprosy being regarded as a venereal disease)

2.3 6.7 O . . . Olympus Thersites might kneel as in prayer, rising after 'placket' (6.15) or 'Amen' (6.15).

6.16.1 *Enter Patroclus* He appears at the entrance of Achilles' tent, which might be either a tent stage property, an opened curtain, or an opened door. He may disappear within during Thersites' speech at 6.18–25

6.21–5 Heaven . . . Amen Thersites might again kneel as in prayer.

6.27 **The heavens hear me!** If Thersites prostrates himself on the ground, this would explain why Achilles does not at first see him.

6.27.1 *Enter Achilles* from the tent

30 ACHILLES Where, where? [*To Thersites*] Art thou come? Why, my cheese, my digestion, why hast thou not served thyself into my table so many meals? Come, what's Agamemnon?

THERSITES Thy commander, Achilles. Then tell me, Patroclus, what's Achilles?

35 PATROCLUS Thy lord, Thersites. Then tell me, I pray thee, what's Thersites?

THERSITES Thy knower, Patroclus. Then tell me Patroclus, what art thou?

PATROCLUS Thou mayst tell that know'st.

ACHILLES O tell, tell!

40 THERSITES I'll decline the whole question: Agamemnon commands Achilles, Achilles is my lord, I am Patroclus knower, and Patroclus is a fool.

PATROCLUS You rascal!

THERSITES Peace, fool; I have not done.

45 ACHILLES [*to Patroclus*] He is a privileged man.—Proceed, Thersites.

THERSITES Agamemnon is a fool, Achilles is a fool, Thersites is a fool, and, as aforesaid, Patroclus is a fool.

ACHILLES Derive this. Come!

50 THERSITES Agamemnon is a fool to offer to command Achilles; Achilles is a fool to be commanded of Agamemnon; Thersites is a fool to serve such a fool; and Patroclus is a fool positive.

PATROCLUS Why am I a fool?

Enter Agamemnon, Ulysses, Nestor, Diomed, Ajax, and Calchas

THERSITES Make that demand to the Creator. It suffices me thou art.—Look you, who comes here?

55 ACHILLES Patroclus, I'll speak with nobody.—Come in with me, Thersites. *Exit*

THERSITES Here is such patchery, such juggling, and such knavery! All the argument is a cuckold and a whore: a good quarrel to draw emulatioous factions and bleed to death upon! Now the dry serpigo on the subject, and war and lechery confound all! [*Exit*]

AGAMEMNON [*to Patroclus*] Where is Achilles?

PATROCLUS Within his tent, but ill-disposed, my lord.

AGAMEMNON Let it be known to him that we are here.

He faced our messengers; and we lay by

65 Our appertainments, visiting of him.

Let him be told of't, so perchance he think

We dare not move the question of our place,

Or know not what we are.

PATROCLUS I shall so say to him. [*Exit*]

ULYSSES We saw him at the opening of his tent.

70 He is not sick.

6.52.1 *Enter . . . Calchas*
The entry might be delayed until after 'art.' (6.53).

6.31 **cheese** (the conclusion of a meal, supposedly helping digestion)

6.40 **decline** recite in order (like a noun)

6.40 **question** subject under investigation

6.45 **privileged** (An acknowledged fool could say anything with impunity. Perhaps this is also a reference to Thersites being a volunteer in the army.)

6.48 **Derive** show the origins of these conclusions

6.51 **positive** absolute

6.57 **patchery** foolery; incompetence

6.57 **juggling** deception

6.58 **draw** attract to itself, like a magnet; extract, like a sword; tear to pieces; drug to execution

6.59 **eumulatioous** emulous, rivalling

6.59 **serpigo** creeping skin disease, ringworm

6.62 **ill-disposed** unwell (but perhaps punning on 'malevolent')

6.64 **faced** intimidated, defied, 'blanked'

6.65 **appertainments** prerogatives of rank

6.66 **so** in case

6.67 **move the question of our place** assert our authority

AJAX Yes: lion-sick, sick of proud heart. You may call it melancholy if't will favour the man, but by my head it is pride. But why, why? Let him show us the cause. [*To Agamemnon*] A word, my lord.

NESTOR [*to Ulysses*] What moves Ajax thus to bay at him?

75 ULYSSES Achilles hath inveigled his fool from him.

NESTOR Who, Thersites?

ULYSSES He.

NESTOR Then will Ajax lack matter if he have lost his argument.

ULYSSES No: you see, he is his argument that has his argument,

80 Achilles.

NESTOR All the better; their fraction is more our wish than their faction. But it was a strong council that a fool could disunite.

ULYSSES The amity that wisdom knits not, folly may easily untie.

Enter Patroclus

Here comes Patroclus.

85 NESTOR No Achilles with him?

ULYSSES The elephant hath joints, but none for courtesy: His legs are legs for necessity, not for flexure.

PATROCLUS [*to Agamemnon*] Achilles bids me say he is much sorry

If anything more than your sport and pleasure

90 Did move your greatness and this noble state

To call upon him. He hopes it is no other

But for your health and your digestion sake,

An after-dinner's breath.

AGAMEMNON Hear you, Patroclus.

We are too well acquainted with these answers;

95 But his evasion, winged thus swift with scorn,

Cannot outfly our apprehensions.

Much attribute he hath, and much the reason

Why we ascribe it to him; yet all his virtues,

Not virtuously of his own part upheld,

100 Do in our eyes begin to lose their gloss,

Yea, and like fair fruit in an unwholesome dish,

Are like to rot untasted. Go and tell him

We came to speak with him; and you shall not sin

If you do say we think him over-proud

105 And under-honest, in self-assumption greater

Than in the note of judgement; and worthier than himself

Here tend the savage strangeness he puts on,

6.73 A word, my lord. Ajax draws Agamemnon aside for a private conversation while Nestor talks to Ulysses.

6.71 lion-sick (This alludes to the traditional pride of a lion and perhaps also to its idleness, since Londoners would be familiar with the captive lions in the Tower.)

6.71 melancholy (considered both a serious mental condition and a fashionable affected malady)

6.78 matter something to say, theme; sense, substance

6.79–80 he ... Achilles (Alludes to Erasmus: 'A reason or an argument is called Achillean because it is insuperable and insoluble'. Here, he who has Thersites (Achilles) is the subject of Ajax' dispute (which is Achillean, insuperable).)

6.79 argument theme, subject, plot (Thersites imagined as Ajax' source of subject matter and opposite in debate)

6.81 their fraction division among themselves

6.82 faction union (in rebellion)

6.82 council assembly (punning on *counsel* in the senses 'judgement', 'resolution', 'secret plan')

6.86 none for courtesy (The elephant supposedly lacked knee joints and so was unable to bow.)

6.87 flexure bending

6.89 sport exercise

6.90 noble state company of noblemen

6.93 breath exercise

6.96 apprehensions understanding, grasp

6.97 attribute reputation

6.99 Not if not, not being

6.105 self-assumption arrogance

6.106 note of judgement observation of men of judgement

6.107 tend attend, wait upon

6.107 savage strangeness uncivilized aloofness

- Disguise the holy strength of their command,
 And underwrite in an observing kind
 110 His humorous predominance—yea, watch
 His pettish lunes, his ebbs, his flows, as if
 The passage and whole carriage of this action
 Rode on his tide. Go tell him this, and add
 That if he overhold his price so much,
 115 We'll none of him, but let him, like an engine
 Not portable, lie under this report:
 'Bring action hither; this cannot go to war.'
 A stirring dwarf we do allowance give
 Before a sleeping giant. Tell him so.
- 120 PATROCLUS I shall, and bring his answer presently. *[Exit]*
 AGAMEMNON In second voice we'll not be satisfied.
 We come to speak with him. Ulysses, enter you. *Exit Ulysses*
 AJAX What is he more than another?
 AGAMEMNON No more than what he thinks he is.
- 125 AJAX Is he so much? Do you not think he thinks himself a better man
 than I am?
 AGAMEMNON No question.
 AJAX Will you subscribe his thought and say he is?
 AGAMEMNON No, noble Ajax. You are as strong, as valiant, as wise, no
 130 less noble, much more gentle, and altogether more tractable.
 AJAX Why should a man be proud? How doth pride grow? I know not
 what it is.
 AGAMEMNON Your mind is the clearer, Ajax, and your virtues the
 fairer. He that is proud eats up himself. Pride is his own glass, his
 135 own trumpet, his own chronicle; and whatever praises itself but in
 the deed, devours the deed in the praise.
- Enter Ulysses*
- AJAX I do hate a proud man as I hate the engend'ring of toads.
 NESTOR *[aside to Agamemnon]* Yet he loves himself. Is't not strange?
 ULYSSES Achilles will not to the field tomorrow.
- 140 AGAMEMNON What's his excuse?
 ULYSSES He doth rely on none,
 But carries on the stream of his dispose
 Without observance or respect of any,
 In will peculiar and in self-admission.
 AGAMEMNON Why, will he not, upon our fair request,
 145 Untent his person and share the air with us?
 ULYSSES Things small as nothing, for request's sake only,
 He makes important. Possessed he is with greatness,

6.108 **holy** divinely sanctioned; morally unspotted6.109 **underwrite** subscribe to6.109 **observing kind** compliant way6.110 **humorous predominance** idiosyncratic assumption of superiority6.111 **pettish** petulant6.111 **lunes** fits of madness (caused by the moon's changing phases; hence 'ebbs . . . flows')6.112 **this action** the present military campaign6.114 **overhold** overestimate6.115 **engine** See 3.207.6.118 **stirring** bustling6.121 **In second voice** with a substitute (meaning Patroclus)6.130 **tractable** cooperative; easy to manipulate; moveable (see 6.115–16)6.134 **glass** mirror6.137 **toads** (considered poisonous)6.141 **carries** is carried6.141 **dispose** disposition6.143 **will peculiar** self-will6.143 **self-admission** acknowledgement of the authority only of himself6.146 **for request's sake only** only because they are requested6.147 **Possessed** (as by a devil)

- And speaks not to himself but with a pride
That quarrels at self-breath. Imagined worth
150 Holds in his blood such swol'n and hot discourse
That 'twixt his mental and his active parts
Kingdomed Achilles in commotion rages,
And batters 'gainst itself. What should I say?
He is so plaguy proud that the death tokens of it
155 Cry 'No recovery'.
- AGAMEMNON Let Ajax go to him.
[To Ajax] Dear lord, go you and greet him in his tent.
'Tis said he holds you well, and will be led
At your request a little from himself.
- 160 ULYSSES O Agamemnon, let it not be so.
We'll consecrate the steps that Ajax makes
When they go from Achilles. Shall the proud lord
That bastes his arrogance with his own seam,
And never suffers matter of the world
Enter his thoughts save such as do revolve
165 And ruminate himself—shall he be worshipped
Of that we hold an idol more than he?
No, this thrice-worthy and right valiant lord
Must not so stale his palm, nobly acquired,
Nor, by my will, assubjugate his merit,
170 As amply titled as Achilles' is,
By going to Achilles.
That were to enlard his fat-already pride,
And add more coals to Cancer when he burns
With entertaining great Hyperion.
175 This lord go to him? Jupiter forbid,
And say in thunder, 'Achilles go to him'.
- NESTOR [*aside to Diomed*] O, this is well! He rubs the vein of him.
DIOMED [*aside to Nestor*] And how his silence drinks up this applause.
- 180 AJAX If I go to him, with my armèd fist
I'll pash him o'er the face.
- AGAMEMNON O no, you shall not go.
- AJAX An 'a be proud with me, I'll feeze his pride.
Let me go to him.
- ULYSSES Not for the worth that hangs upon our quarrel.
- AJAX A paltry insolent fellow!
- 185 NESTOR [*aside*] How he describes himself!
- AJAX Can he not be sociable?
- ULYSSES [*aside*] The raven chides blackness.
- AJAX I'll let his humour's blood.

6.149 **self-breath** (even) his words spoken to himself
6.152 **Kingdomed Achilles** the kingdom that is Achilles
6.152 **commotion** insurrection
6.154 **plaguy** insufferably; infected as with a plague
6.154 **death tokens** fatal symptoms
6.158 **himself** his self-conceit
6.162 **seam** fat, grease
6.164 **save** except
6.164 **revolve** consider
6.166 **Of that** by one who

6.168 **stale his palm** sully his honour
6.169 **assubjugate** reduce to subjection
6.173 **Cancer** the zodiac sign beginning on 21 June when the sun
(Hyperion) enters its astrological house, hence a symbol of heat
6.177 **rubs the vein of him** provokes his state of mind (as rubbing
a vein makes it swell; perhaps puns on *vain*)
6.180 **pash** smash
6.181 **feeze** settle, sort out
6.188 **let his humour's blood** cure his illness (pride) by blood-
letting

- AGAMEMNON [*aside*] He will be the physician that should be the patient.
- 190 AJAX An all men were o' my mind—
- ULYSSES [*aside*] Wit would be out of fashion.
- AJAX 'A should not bear it so; 'a should eat swords first. Shall pride carry it?
- NESTOR [*aside*] An 'twould, you'd carry half.
- 195 ULYSSES [*aside*] 'A would have ten shares. I will knead him; I'll make him supple. He's not yet through warm.
- NESTOR [*aside*] Farce him with praises. Pour in, pour in; his ambition is dry.
- ULYSSES [*to Agamemnon*] My lord, you feed too much on this dislike.
- 200 NESTOR [*to Agamemnon*] Our noble general, do not do so.
- DIOMED [*to Agamemnon*] You must prepare to fight without Achilles.
- ULYSSES [*to Agamemnon*] Why, 'tis this naming of him doth him harm. Here is a man—But 'tis before his face; I will be silent.
- NESTOR Wherefore should you so?
- 205 He is not emulous, as Achilles is.
- ULYSSES Know the whole world, he is as valiant—
- AJAX A whoreson dog, that shall palter thus with us. Would he were a Trojan.
- NESTOR What a vice were it in Ajax now—
- 210 ULYSSES If he were proud—
- DIOMED Or covetous of praise—
- ULYSSES Ay, or surly borne—
- DIOMED Or strange, or self-affected—
- ULYSSES [*to Ajax*] Thank the heavens, lord, thou art of sweet composure! Praise him that got thee, she that gave thee suck. Famed be thy tutor, and thy parts of nature
- 215 Thrice famed beyond, beyond all erudition. But he that disciplined thy arms to fight, Let Mars divide eternity in twain And give him half. And for thy vigour, Bull-bearing Milo his addition yield
- 220 To sinewy Ajax. I will not praise thy wisdom, Which, like a bourn, a pale, a shore, confines Thy spacious and dilated parts. Here's Nestor, Instructed by the antiquary times; He must, he is, he cannot but be wise.
- 225 But pardon, father Nestor: were your days As green as Ajax, and your brain so tempered,

6.192 bear it so 'carry on so', 'get away with it'

6.192 eat swords be stabbed; eat his words

6.192 pride the proud man (meaning Achilles)

6.193 carry get away with (but in Nestor's riposte 'bear')

6.195 ten shares everything (perhaps alluding to the ten shares into which the Chamberlain's Men's assets were divided)

6.196 supple pliant, compliant

6.196 through warm warm all through

6.197 Farce stuff (as in cooking)

6.207 palter deal evasively

6.211 strange . . . self-affected aloof . . . egotistical

6.212 composure temperament

6.213 got conceived, fathered

6.213 gave thee suck breast-fed you

6.214 parts of nature natural gifts

6.215 erudition knowledge gained through learning

6.219 Milo (a famous Greek athlete, who bore a four-year-old bull on his shoulders)

6.219 addition title, reputation

6.221 bourn boundary

6.221 pale fence

6.221 confines limits the uses of (probably ironic)

6.222 dilated ample; widely spoken of

6.223 antiquary times antiquity

6.226 green young, fresh; immature; gullible

You should not have the eminence of him,
But be as Ajax.

AJAX Shall I call you father?

ULYSSES Ay, my good son.

DIOMED Be ruled by him, Lord Ajax.

230 ULYSSES [*to Agamemnon*] There is no tarrying here; the hart Achilles

Keeps thicket. Please it our general

To call together all his state of war.

Fresh kings are come to Troy; tomorrow

We must with all our main of power stand fast.

235 And here's a lord! Come knights from east to west

And, cull their flower, Ajax shall cope the best.

AGAMEMNON Go we to council. Let Achilles sleep.

Light boats may sail swift, though greater hulks draw deep. *Exeunt*

6.230 ULYSSES The 1609 text plausibly gives this speech to Nestor.

Sc. 7

3.1 *Music sounds within. Enter Pandarus [at one door] and a Servant [at another]*

3.1 7.0.1 *Music . . . another*
The music is probably played on the lutes or viols, and has romantic or erotic overtones.

PANDARUS Friend, you. Pray you, a word. Do not you follow the young Lord Paris?

SERVANT Ay, sir, when he goes before me.

PANDARUS You depend upon him, I mean?

5 SERVANT Sir, I do depend upon the Lord.

PANDARUS You depend upon a noble gentleman; I must needs praise him.

SERVANT The Lord be praised!

PANDARUS You know me, do you not?

10 SERVANT Faith, sir, superficially.

PANDARUS Friend, know me better. I am the Lord Pandarus.

SERVANT I hope I shall know your honour better.

PANDARUS I do desire it.

SERVANT You are in the state of grace?

15 PANDARUS Grace? Not so, friend. Honour and lordship are my title. What music is this?

SERVANT I do but partly know, sir: it is music in parts.

PANDARUS Know you the musicians?

SERVANT Wholly, sir.

20 PANDARUS Who play they to?

SERVANT To the hearers, sir.

PANDARUS At whose pleasure, friend?

SERVANT At mine, sir, and theirs that love music.

PANDARUS 'Command' I mean, friend.

25 SERVANT Who shall I command, sir?

PANDARUS Friend, we understand not one another. I am too courtly, and thou art too cunning. At whose request do these men play?

6.227 **eminence of** superiority to

6.228 **as like**, no more than

6.228 **father** (used in the sense of mentor)

6.230 **hart** male deer

6.231 **general** Agamemnon

6.232 **state** council

6.233 **to Troy** to support the Trojans

6.234 **main of power** utmost strength

6.235 **east to west** the breadth of the whole world

6.236 **cope** engage; match

6.238 **hulks** large cargo vessels

3.1 7.4 **depend upon him** are his dependent, servant

7.5 **depend upon . . . Lord** (The servant interprets 'Lord' as 'God', and 'depend upon' as 'trust in'.)

7.12 **know your honour better** get to know you better; learn of an improvement in your spiritual health

7.13 **desire it** hope you'll get to know me (but the servant understands 'hope to improve myself')

7.14 **grace** (The servant means theologically. Pandarus understands the status 'your grace' (a duke's title).)

SERVANT That's to't indeed, sir. Marry, sir, at the request of Paris, my lord, who's there in person; with him the mortal Venus, the heart-blood of beauty, love's one visible soul.

PANDARUS Who, my cousin Cressida?

SERVANT No, sir; Helen. Could you not find out that by her attributes?

PANDARUS It should seem, fellow, that thou hast not seen the Lady Cressida. I come to speak with Paris from the Prince Troilus. I will make a complimentary assault upon him, for my business seethes.

SERVANT Sodden business! There's a stewed phrase indeed.

Enter Paris and Helena [with musicians]

PANDARUS [to Paris] Fair be to you, my lord, and to all this fair company! Fair desires in all fair measure fairly guide them—especially to you, fair Queen. Fair thoughts be your fair pillow!

HELEN Dear lord, you are full of fair words.

PANDARUS You speak your fair pleasure, sweet Queen.—Fair prince, here is good broken music.

PARIS You have broke it, cousin; and, by my life, you shall make it whole again. You shall piece it out with a piece of your performance.—Nell, he is full of harmony.

PANDARUS Truly, lady, no.

HELEN O sir!

PANDARUS Rude, in sooth; in good sooth, very rude.

PARIS Well said, my lord! Well, you say so in fits.

PANDARUS I have business to my lord, dear Queen.—My lord, will you vouchsafe me a word?

HELEN Nay, this shall not hedge us out. We'll hear you sing, certainly.

PANDARUS Well, sweet Queen, you are pleasant with me.—But, marry, thus, my lord, my dear lord, and most esteemed friend: your brother Troilus—

HELEN My lord Pandarus, honey-sweet lord.

PANDARUS Go to, sweet Queen, go to!—commends himself most affectionately to you.

HELEN You shall not bob us out of our melody: If you do, our melancholy upon your head.

PANDARUS Sweet Queen, sweet Queen, that's a sweet Queen, i' faith—

HELEN And to make a sweet lady sad is a sour offence.

PANDARUS Nay, that shall not serve your turn, that shall it not, in truth, la. Nay, I care not for such words; no, no.—And, my lord, he desires you that if the King call for him at supper you will make his excuse.

HELEN My lord Pandarus!

PANDARUS What says my sweet Queen, my very, very sweet Queen?

PARIS What exploit's in hand? Where sups he tonight?

7.36.1 *Helena* Helen of Troy, famous for her beauty, is often costumed to highlight her sexual appeal, in a scene of louche decadence or trivial superficiality.

7.36.1 *with musicians* The musicians probably continue to play.

7.47 O sir! Pandarus responds by speaking in 'fits' (7.49); Helen tickles him or provokes him in some other way.

7.29 *mortal* living (could also = 'fatal')

7.29 *heart-blood* life-blood (or 'blood spilled in death')

7.30 *visible soul* abstract love in visible, material form

7.35 *complimental* ceremonial, full of compliment

7.35 *seethes* is urgent, 'on the boil'

7.36 *Sodden* boiled; 'stupid' or 'drunken'; treated for venereal disease

7.36 *stewed* associated with stews (brothels); punning on *sodden*, and perhaps suggesting 'overdone'

7.42 *broken* arranged for different kinds of instrument

7.43 *broke* interrupted

7.43 *cousin* kinsman (used especially by sovereigns to noblemen, whether or not related)

7.44 *piece it out* patch it, complete it

7.44 *of your performance* performed by you

7.44 *Nell* familiar form of 'Helen'

7.48 *Rude* unskilled, unmusical

7.49 *fits* sections of songs or music; spasms of laughter

7.53 *pleasant with* teasing

7.59 *bob* cheat

7.59 *melancholy* (supposedly cured by music)

- HELEN [*to Pandarus*] Nay, but my lord!
- 70 PANDARUS What says my sweet Queen? My cousin will fall out with you.
HELEN [*to Paris*] You must not know where he sups.
PARIS With my disposer Cressida.
PANDARUS No, no; no such matter. You are wide. Come, your disposer
is sick.
- 75 PARIS Well, I'll make excuse.
PANDARUS Ay, good my lord. Why should you say Cressida? No, your
poor disposer's sick.
PARIS I spy.
PANDARUS You spy; what do you spy? [*To a musician*] Come, give me
80 an instrument.—Now, sweet Queen.
HELEN Why, this is kindly done!
PANDARUS My niece is horrible in love with a thing you have, sweet
Queen.
HELEN She shall have it, my lord, if it be not my lord Paris.
- 85 PANDARUS He? No, she'll none of him; they two are twain.
HELEN Falling in after falling out may make them three.
PANDARUS Come, come, I'll hear no more of this. I'll sing you a song now.
HELEN Ay, ay, prithee, now. By my troth, sweet lord, thou hast a fine
forehead. 7.88–9 thou . . . forehead
Helen may stroke it.
- 90 PANDARUS Ay, you may, you may.
HELEN Let thy song be love. This love will undo us all. O Cupid, Cupid,
Cupid!
PANDARUS Love? Ay, that it shall, i'faith.
PARIS Ay, good now: 'Love, love, nothing but love'.
- 95 PANDARUS In good troth, it begins so.
[*He sings*]
Love, love, nothing but love, still more;
For O!—love's bow
Shoots buck and doe.
The shaft confounds,
100 Not that it wounds,
But tickles still the sore.
These lovers cry 'O ho!', they die;
Yet that which seems the wound to kill
Doth turn 'O ho!' to 'ha ha he!'
105 So dying love lives still.
'O ho!' a while, but 'ha ha ha!'
'O ho!' groans out for 'ha ha ha!'
Heigh-ho!

7.70 **cousin** Paris or Cressida

7.72, 73, 77 **disposer** (The meaning here is unclear; Cressid perhaps
rejects or controls Paris?)

7.73 **wide** off target

7.78 **I spy** (alluding to the child's game)

7.82 **horrible** horribly

7.82 a **thing** (some object Pandarus never identifies; or Paris'
penis, or sex with a man more generally)

7.84 **Paris** Paris himself; Paris' (meaning Paris' 'thing', his penis)

7.85 **twain** estranged, at odds

7.86 **Falling . . . out** having sex after arguing

7.89 **forehead** suggesting either impudence or blushing modesty

7.90 **you may** go on then

7.91 **This love will undo us all** (a catchphrase, perhaps the refrain
of a song)

7.93 **shall** shall be (what Pandarus will sing), or 'shall undo us all'

7.94 **good now** please

7.95 **it** the song a love affair

7.96 **still** always

7.97 **O . . . bow** (Both words are euphemisms for 'vagina'.)

7.98 **buck and doe** male and female (deer)

7.99 **shaft** arrow; penis

7.101 **sore** affliction, wound (punning on 'four-year-old buck')

7.102 **die** perish; have an orgasm

7.103 **wound to kill** killing wound

7.104 **'O ho!' to 'ha ha he'** pain to joy; ecstasy to derision

HELEN In love, i'faith, to the very tip of the nose.

110 PARIS He eats nothing but doves, love, and that breeds hot blood, and
hot blood begets hot thoughts, and hot thoughts beget hot deeds, and
hot deeds is love.

PANDARUS Is this the generation of love: hot blood, hot thoughts, and
hot deeds? Why, they are vipers. Is love a generation of vipers? Sweet
115 lord, who's afield today?

PARIS Hector, Deiphobus, Helenus, Antenor, and all the gallantry of
Troy. I would fain have armed today, but my Nell would not have it so.
How chance my brother Troilus went not?

HELEN He hangs the lip at something. You know all, Lord Pandarus!

120 PANDARUS Not I, honey-sweet Queen. I long to hear how they sped
today. You'll remember your brother's excuse?

PARIS To a hair.

PANDARUS Farewell, sweet Queen.

HELEN Commend me to your niece.

125 PANDARUS I will, sweet Queen. [Exit.]

Sound a retreat

PARIS They're come from field. Let us to Priam's hall
To greet the warriors. Sweet Helen, I must woo you
To help unarm our Hector. His stubborn buckles
With these your white enchanting fingers touched
130 Shall more obey than to the edge of steel,
Or force of Greekish sinews. You shall do more
Than all the island kings: disarm great Hector.

HELEN 'Twill make us proud to be his servant, Paris.

Yea, what he shall receive of us in duty
135 Gives us more palm in beauty than we have,
Yea, overshines ourself.

PARIS Sweet above thought, I love thee. Exeunt

Sc. 8

3.2 *Enter Pandarus [at one door] and Troilus' Man [at another]*

PANDARUS How now, where's thy master? At my cousin Cressida's?

MAN No, sir; he stays for you to conduct him thither.

Enter Troilus

PANDARUS O, here he comes.—How now, how now?

TROILUS *[to his Man]* Sirrah, walk off. [Exit Man]

5 PANDARUS Have you seen my cousin?

TROILUS No, Pandarus. I stalk about her door
Like a strange soul upon the Stygian banks
Staying for waftage. O, be thou my Charon,
And give me swift transportance to those fields
10 Where I may wallow in the lily-beds
Proposed for the deserver. O gentle Pandarus,

7.109 nose (can be a euphemism for 'penis')

7.110 doves (emblems of love; as food, thought to warm the blood)

7.114 generation genealogy

7.114 generation of vipers (a Biblical phrase)

7.117 would fain have strongly wished to

7.119 hangs the lip at looks despondent about

7.122 To a hair exactly

7.130 edge of steel sword-blade

7.135 palm in fame for

3.2 8.7 strange newly-arrived

8.8 Staying for waftage waiting to be ferried (across the river Styx
into the underworld, as after death by the ferryman Charon)

8.9 transportance conveyance

8.9 fields Elysian fields

8.10 wallow roll or turn, as upon a bed

8.11 Proposed for promised to

7.114 vipers? The sound of
an alarm offstage might
prompt the change of subject
and tone after this line.

From Cupid's shoulder pluck his painted wings,
And fly with me to Cressid.

PANDARUS Walk here i'th' orchard. I'll bring her straight.

Exit Pandarus

15 TROILUS I am giddy. Expectation whirls me round.

Th'imaginary relish is so sweet
That it enchants my sense. What will it be
When that the wat'ry pallet taste indeed
Loves thrice repurèd nectar? Death, I fear me,
20 Swooning destruction, or some joy too fine,
Too subtle-potent, and too sharp in sweetness
For the capacity of my ruder powers.
I fear it much; and I do fear besides

That I shall lose distinction in my joys,
25 As doth a battle when they charge on heaps,
The enemy flying.

Enter Pandarus

PANDARUS She's making her ready; she'll come straight. You must be
witty now. She does so blush, and fetches her wind so short as if she were
frayed with a sprite. I'll fetch her. It is the prettiest villain; she fetches her
30 breath so short as a new-ta'en sparrow. *Exit Pandarus*

TROILUS Even such a passion doth embrace my bosom.

My heart beats thicker than a feverous pulse,
And all my powers do their bestowing lose,
Like vassalage at unawares encount'ring
35 The eye of majesty.

Enter Pandarus, and Cressid [veiled]

PANDARUS *[to Cressid]* Come, come, what need you blush? Shame's
a baby. *[To Troilus]* Here she is now. Swear the oaths now to her that
you have sworn to me. *[To Cressid]* What, are you gone again? You must
be watched ere you be made tame, must you? Come your ways, come
40 your ways! An you draw backward, we'll put you i'th' files. *[To Troilus]*
Why do you not speak to her? *[To Cressid]* Come, draw this curtain
and let's see your picture.

[She unveils]

Alas the day, how loath you are to offend daylight! An 'twere dark,
you'd close sooner. *[To Troilus]* So, so; rub on, and kiss the mistress.

[Troilus and Cressid kiss]

3.2 8.38 What ... again?
Cressid has lifted but now
lowers her veil, or was
beginning to leave.

8.12 painted brightly coloured

8.18 wat'ry watering

8.19 repurèd refined, purified

8.19 nectar drink of the gods (giving immortality)

8.20 fine exquisite

8.24 distinction power to discriminate

8.25 battle army

8.25 on heaps all together, en masse

8.27 straight straight away

8.28 wind breath

8.29 frayed with a sprite frightened by a ghost

8.29 villain (used affectionately)

8.32 thicker more quickly and heavily

8.33 bestowing function

8.34 vassalage vassals, low subjects

8.34 at unawares unexpectedly

8.36-7 Shame's a baby don't be such a baby with your blushing

8.39 watched (hawks were kept awake at night to tame them)

8.40 draw backward back away

8.40 files shafts (a horse would be backed into the shafts)

8.41 curtain (Cressid's veil)

8.42 picture (Pictures were curtained for protection against light and dust.)

8.44 close agree, came to terms; grapple, join closely

8.44 rub on roll on slowing down to stop where you touch (a term from bowls)

8.44 kiss the mistress (punning on the terms in bowls: gently touch the small target bowl or Jack)

45 How now, a kiss in fee-farm? Build there, carpenter; the air is sweet.
Nay, you shall fight your hearts out ere I part you. The falcon as the
tercel, for all the ducks i'th' river. Go to, go to.

TROILUS You have bereft me of all words, lady.

PANDARUS Words pay no debts; give her deeds. But she'll bereave you
50 o'th' deeds too if she call your activity in question.

[*Troilus and Cressid kiss*]

What, billing again? Here's 'in witness whereof the parties
interchangeably'. Come in, come in; I'll go get a fire.

CRESSID Will you walk in, my lord?

TROILUS O Cressida, how often have I wished me thus!

55 CRESSID Wished, my lord? The gods grant—O my lord!

TROILUS What should they grant? What makes this pretty abruption?

What too curious dreg espies my sweet lady in the fountain of our love?

CRESSID More dregs than water if my fears have eyes.

TROILUS Fears make devils of cherubims; they never see truly.

60 CRESSID Blind fear, that seeing reason leads, finds safer footing than
blind reason, stumbling without fear. To fear the worst oft cures the
worse.

TROILUS O let my lady apprehend no fear.

In all Cupid's pageant there is presented no monster.

65 CRESSID Nor nothing monstrous neither?

TROILUS Nothing but our undertakings, when we vow to weep seas,
live in fire, eat rocks, tame tigers, thinking it harder for our mistress
to devise imposition enough than for us to undergo any difficulty
imposed. This is the monstrosity in love, lady: that the will is infinite
70 and the execution confined, that the desire is boundless and the act a
slave to limit.

CRESSID They say all lovers swear more performance than they are
able, and yet reserve an ability that they never perform, vowing more
than the perfection of ten, and discharging less than the tenth part of
75 one. They that have the voice of lions and the act of hares, are they not
monsters?

TROILUS Are there such? Such are not we. Praise us as we are tasted;
allow us as we prove. Our head shall go bare till merit crown it. No
perfection in reversion shall have a praise in present. We will not
80 name desert before his birth, and being born his addition shall be
humble. Few words to fair faith: Troilus shall be such to Cressid as

8.45 **fee-farm** perpetuity (used of land tenure)

8.45 **the air** Cressid's breath

8.46 **falcon as the tercel** female hawk as (eagerly as) the male

8.47 **for all** I'd bet all, or for hunting all and any of

8.49 **Words pay no debts** (proverbial)

8.51–2 **in . . . interchangeably** a garbled extract from a betrothal;
also a legal formula completed by the words 'here set their hands
and seals'

8.52 **fire** (for the bedroom)

8.56 **abruption** breaking-off

8.57 **curious dreg** minute impurity

8.58 **have eyes** are perceptive

8.60 **seeing reason** reason having eyesight

8.61–2 **To . . . cures the worse** (proverbial)

8.66 **undertakings** promises

8.70 **the act** (an act of any kind; but specifically the sexual act;
similarly *performance*, 8.72)

8.75 **lions . . . hares** (proverbial for courage and lack of it,
respectively)

8.77 **we** (Troilus speaks of himself as epitome of the true lover.)

8.77 **tasted** tested, tried

8.78 **allow** praise

8.79 **in reversion** by right of eventual succession (like lands or title)

8.80 **name desert** give a name to, speak of, merit

8.80 **addition** title

8.81 **Few words to fair faith** (proverbial)

8.81 **to fair faith** lead to, or are necessary to, honesty

8.81–2 **such to Cressid . . . for his truth** so true to Cressid that
Envy's most malicious comment on Troilus can only be to mock
him for constancy

what envy can say worst shall be a mock for his truth; and what truth
can speak truest, not truer than Troilus.

CRESSID Will you walk in, my lord?

Enter Pandarus

85 PANDARUS What, blushing still? Have you not done talking yet?

CRESSID Well, uncle, what folly I commit I dedicate to you.

PANDARUS I thank you for that. If my lord get a boy of you, you'll give
him me. Be true to my lord. If he flinch, chide me for it.

TROILUS *[to Cressid]* You know now your hostages: your uncle's word
90 and my firm faith.

PANDARUS Nay, I'll give my word for her too. Our kindred, though they
be long ere they are wooed, they are constant being won. They are
burrs, I can tell you; they'll stick where they are thrown.

CRESSID Boldness comes to me now, and brings me heart.
95 Prince Troilus, I have loved you night and day
For many weary months.

TROILUS Why was my Cressid then so hard to win?

CRESSID Hard to seem won; but I was won, my lord,
With the first glance that ever—Pardon me;

100 If I confess much you will play the tyrant.

I love you now, but not till now so much

But I might master it. In faith, I lie:

My thoughts were like unbridled children, grown

Too headstrong for their mother. See, we fools!

105 Why have I blabbed? Who shall be true to us

When we are so unsecret to ourselves?

But though I loved you well, I wooed you not;

And yet, good faith, I wished myself a man,

Or that we women had men's privilege

110 Of speaking first. Sweet, bid me hold my tongue,

For in this rapture I shall surely speak

The thing I shall repent. See, see, your silence,

Cunning in dumbness, from my weakness draws

My soul of counsel from me. Stop my mouth.

115 TROILUS And shall, albeit sweet music issues thence.

[They kiss]

PANDARUS Pretty, i'faith.

CRESSID *[to Troilus]* My lord, I do beseech you pardon me.

'Twas not my purpose thus to beg a kiss.

I am ashamed. O heavens, what have I done?

120 For this time will I take my leave, my lord.

TROILUS Your leave, sweet Cressid?

PANDARUS Leave? An you take leave till tomorrow morning—

CRESSID Pray you, content you.

TROILUS What offends you, lady?

125 CRESSID Sir, mine own company.

TROILUS You cannot shun yourself.

CRESSID Let me go and try.

I have a kind of self resides with you—

8.83 **not truer** could not be more reliable

8.86 **folly** sexual indiscretion

8.88 **flinch** fall short

8.89 **hostages** pledges

8.104–6 **we . . . us . . . ourselves** (Cressid is referring to women
generally.)

8.114 **soul of counsel** most secret thoughts

8.123 **Pray you, content
you.** Might be spoken to
either Pandarus or Troilus

- But an unkind self, that itself will leave
 130 To be another's fool. Where is my wit?
 I would be gone; I speak I know not what.
 TROILUS Well know they what they speak that speaks so wisely.
 CRESSID Perchance, my lord, I show more craft than love,
 And fell so roundly to a large confession
 135 To angle for your thoughts. But you are wise,
 Or else you love not; for to be wise and love
 Exceeds man's might; that dwells with gods above.
 TROILUS O that I thought it could be in a woman—
 As, if it can, I will presume in you—
 140 To feed for aye her lamp and flames of love,
 To keep her constancy in plight and youth,
 Outliving beauties outward, with a mind
 That doth renew swifter than blood decays;
 Or that persuasion could but thus convince me
 145 That my integrity and truth to you
 Might be affronted with the match and weight
 Of such a winnowed purity in love:
 How were I then uplifted! But, alas,
 I am as true as truth's simplicity,
 150 And simpler than the infancy of truth.
 CRESSID In that I'll war with you.
 TROILUS O virtuous fight,
 When right with right wars who shall be most right!
 True swains in love shall in the world to come
 Approve their truths by Troilus. When their rhymes,
 155 Full of protest of oath and big compare,
 Wants similes, truth tired with iteration—
 'As true as steel', 'as plantage to the moon',
 'As sun to day', 'as turtle to her mate',
 'As iron to adamant', 'as earth to th' centre'—
 160 Yet after all comparisons of truth,
 As truth's authentic author to be cited,
 'As true as Troilus' shall crown up the verse
 And sanctify the numbers.
 CRESSID Prophet may you be!
 If I be false or swerve a hair from truth,
 165 When time is old and hath forgot itself,
 When water-drops have worn the stones of Troy,
 And blind oblivion swallowed cities up,

8.154 When their rhymes
 Troilus' and Cressid's
 declarations to each other
 might be ceremonially
 formalized, for instance, by
 them holding hands or
 kneeling.

- 8.129 **unkind** unnatural
 8.133 **craft** cunning
 8.134 **roundly** . . . large openly . . . full
 8.136 **else** alternatively
 8.141 **plight** health
 8.142 **beauties outward** outward beauty; beauty's exterior
 8.146 **affronted** confronted, met
 8.147 **winnowed** (grain having been separated from worthless
 light chaff)
 8.148 **uplifted** to the status of the gods (because if he could be
 convinced of Cressid's constancy, he could both be wise and love)
 8.149 **as . . . simplicity** 'As true as truth itself' (proverbial; *simpler*
 = 'more naive')
 8.151 **war** compete
 8.154 **Approve** attest
 8.155 **protest** protestation
 8.155 **big compare** exaggerated comparisons
 8.156 **Wants** lack
 8.157 **plantage** plants (supposed to be affected in growth by the
 moon)
 8.158 **turtle** turtle dove
 8.159 **adamant** magnet
 8.159 **centre** ('The earth's centre was thought to be the universe's.)
 8.161 **authentic author** original text; authoritative writer; qualified
 authority
 8.163 **numbers** verses
 8.164 **hair** hair's-breadth
 8.165 **forgot itself** lost its memory

And mighty states characterless are grated
 To dusty nothing, yet let memory,
 170 From false to false, among false maids in love,
 Upbraid my falsehood. When they've said 'as false
 As air, as water, as wind, as sandy earth,
 As fox to lamb, as wolf to heifer's calf,
 Pard to the hind, or stepdame to her son'—
 175 Yea, let them say, to stick the heart of falsehood,
 'As false as Cressid'.

PANDARUS Go to, a bargain made! Seal it, seal it. I'll be the witness.
 Here I hold your hand, here my cousin's. If ever you prove false one
 to another, since I have taken such pains to bring you together, let
 180 all pitiful goers-between be called to the world's end after my name:
 call them all Pandars. Let all constant men be Troiluses, all false women
 Cressids, and all brokers-between Pandars. Say 'Amen'.

TROILUS Amen.

CRESSID Amen.

185 PANDARUS Amen.

Whereupon I will show you a chamber with a bed; which bed, because
 it shall not speak of your pretty encounters, press it to death. Away!

[*Exeunt Troilus and Cressid*]

And Cupid grant all tongue-tied maidens here

Bed, chamber, and Pandar to provide this gear.

Exit

Sc. 9

3.3 *Flourish. Enter Ulysses, Diomedes, Nestor, Agamemnon, Menelaus,
 and Calchas*

CALCHAS Now, princes, for the service I have done you
 Th'advantage of the time prompts me aloud
 To call for recompense. Appear it to your mind
 That, through the sight I bear in things to come,
 5 I have abandoned Troy, left my possession,
 Incurred a traitor's name, exposed myself
 From certain and possessed conveniences
 To doubtful fortunes, sequest'ring from me all
 That time, acquaintance, custom, and condition
 10 Made tame and most familiar to my nature,
 And here to do you service am become,
 As new into the world, strange, unacquainted.
 I do beseech you, as in way of taste,
 To give me now a little benefit
 15 Out of those many registered in promise
 Which you say live to come in my behalf.

8.177 *Seal it, seal it* The sealing may involve another kiss, as well as the hand-holding Pandarus arranges.

3.3 9.0.1–2 *Enter . . . Calchas* The flourish is sounded on trumpets, probably within.

9.0.2 *Calchas* (perhaps entering from another direction)

8.168 *characterless* leaving no identifiable trace

8.168 *grated* ground away

8.170 *false to false* one instance of falsehood to the next

8.174 *Pard* panther or leopard

8.175 *stick the heart* hit the bull's-eye

8.178 *Here . . . cousin's* (Taking hands and making vows before a witness could be regarded as forming a valid marriage.)

8.181 *Pandars* (and so 'panders', go-betweens)

8.186 *because* so that

8.187 *press it to death* press on it until orgasm (playing on the punishment for accused persons who remained silent: execution by applying heavy weights on the body)

8.189 *gear* equipment (but perhaps an early use of the sense 'genitals')

3.3 9.2 *advantage* opportunity

9.4 *sight . . . come* (Calchas was able to foretell the future.)

9.5 *possession* property, belongings

9.8 *sequest'ring* divorcing

9.9 *condition* position

9.13 *taste* foretaste; test

9.16 *live to come* wait to be fulfilled

AGAMEMNON What wouldst thou of us, Trojan? Make demand.

CALCHAS You have a Trojan prisoner called Antenor

Yesterday took. Troy holds him very dear.

20 Oft have you—often have you thanks therefore—

Desired my Cressid in right great exchange,

Whom Troy hath still denied. But this Antenor

I know is such a wrest in their affairs

That their negotiations all must slack

25 Wanting his manage; and they will almost

Give us a prince of blood, a son of Priam,

In change of him. Let him be sent, great princes,

And he shall buy my daughter; and her presence

Shall quite strike off all service I have done

30 In most accepted pain.

AGAMEMNON Let Diomedes bear him,

And bring us Cressid hither. Calchas shall have

What he requests of us. Good Diomed,

Furnish you fairly for this interchange.

Withal bring word if Hector will tomorrow

35 Be answered in his challenge. Ajax is ready.

DIOMED This shall I undertake, and 'tis a burden

Which I am proud to bear.

Exit [with Calchas]

Enter Achilles and Patroclus in their tent

ULYSSES Achilles stands i'th' entrance of his tent.

Please it our general to pass strangely by him,

40 As if he were forgot; and, princes all,

Lay negligent and loose regard upon him.

I will come last. 'Tis like he'll question me

Why such unplausible eyes are bent, why turned on him.

If so, I have derision medicinable

45 To use between your strangeness and his pride

Which his own will shall have desire to drink.

It may do good. Pride hath no other glass

To show itself but pride; for supple knees

Feed arrogance and are the proud man's fees.

50 AGAMEMNON We'll execute your purpose, and put on

A form of strangeness as we pass along.

So do each lord; and either greet him not,

Or else disdainfully, which shall shake him more

Than if not looked on. I will lead the way.

[They pass by the tent]

55 ACHILLES What, comes the general to speak with me?

You know my mind: I'll fight no more 'gainst Troy.

AGAMEMNON What says Achilles? Would he aught with us?

NESTOR Would you, my lord, aught with the general?

ACHILLES

No.

9.21 **right great exchange** return for someone important

9.23 **wrest** tuning-key for stringed instrument; or peg for tightening a bandage

9.24 **negotiations** business of state

9.25 **manage** guidance (usually of horses)

9.26 **blood** royal blood

9.27 **change of** exchange for

9.30 **accepted pain** willingly-endured trouble

9.39 **strangely** as if a stranger, aloofly

9.41 **loose** casual

9.43 **unplausible** unapproving

9.44 **medicinable** health-giving

9.47–8 **Pride . . . pride** a proud person only recognizes pride when shown it in others (who act as *glass*, 'mirror')

9.48 **supple** apt to bow

9.51 **form** appearance

9.37.1 *Enter . . . tent* i.e.

they appear at the entrance of it (see note to 6.16.1)

9.54.1 *They pass by the tent*

Agamemnon and Nestor evidently pass by together, followed by Menelaus (9.59–60) then Ajax (9.62–6). Ulysses stands apart, and by 9.90 is reading a book.

NESTOR [*to Agamemnon*] Nothing, my lord.

AGAMEMNON

The better.

[*Exeunt Agamemnon and Nestor*]

ACHILLES [*to Menelaus*]

Good day, good day.

60 MENELAUS [*to Achilles*] How do you, how do you?

[*Exit*]

ACHILLES What, does the cuckold scorn me?

AJAX How now, Patroclus?

ACHILLES Good morrow, Ajax.

AJAX Ha?

65 ACHILLES Good morrow.

AJAX Ay, and good next day too.

[*Exit Ajax*]

ACHILLES [*to Patroclus*] What mean these fellows? Know they not Achilles?

PATROCLUS They pass by strangely. They were used to bend,

To send their smiles before them to Achilles,

70 To come as humbly as they use to creep

To holy altars.

ACHILLES What, am I poor of late?

'Tis certain, greatness once fall'n out with fortune

Must fall out with men too. What the declined is

He shall as soon read in the eyes of others

75 As feel in his own fall; for men, like butterflies,

Show not their mealy wings but to the summer,

And not a man for being simply man

Hath any honour but honour for those honours

That are without him, as place, riches, and favour—

80 Prizes of accident as oft as merit—

Which when they fall, as being slippery standers,

The love that leaned on them as slippery too,

Doth one pluck down another, and together

Die in the fall. But 'tis not so with me.

85 Fortune and I are friends. I do enjoy

At ample point all that I did possess,

Save these men's looks, who do, methinks, find out

Something not worth in me such rich beholding

As they have often given. Here is Ulysses.

90 I'll interrupt his reading.—How now, Ulysses?

ULYSSES Now, great Thetis' son.

ACHILLES What are you reading?

ULYSSES A strange fellow here

Writes me that man, how dearly ever parted,

95 How much in having, or without or in,

Cannot make boast to have that which he hath,

Nor feels not what he owes but by reflection:

As when his virtues, shining upon others,

Heat them, and they retort that heat again

9.71 **poor** reduced in circumstances, insignificant

9.76 **mealy** powdery

9.78 **but** but he has instead

9.79 **without** external to

9.79 **as** such as

9.80 **of accident** that come by chance

9.82 **slippery** liable to slip

9.83 **Doth one** one doth

9.85 **Fortune and I are friends** (in contrast to the popular song, 'Fortune my foe')

9.86 **At ample point** in ample readiness; aptly and amply

9.87 **Save** except

9.93 **strange fellow** (The author (if a particular one is intended) has not been identified.)

9.94 **how dearly ever parted** however richly endowed

9.95 **in having, or without or in** he possesses, either externally or internally

9.97 **owes** owns

9.99 **retort** cast back

100 To the first giver.

ACHILLES This is not strange, Ulysses.
The beauty that is borne here in the face
The bearer knows not, but commends itself
To others' eyes; nor doth the eye itself,
That most pure spirit of sense, behold itself,
105 Not going from itself; but eye to eye opposed
Salutes each other with each other's form.
For speculation turns not to itself
Till it hath travelled, and is mirrored there
Where it may see itself. This is not strange at all.

110 ULYSSES I do not strain at the position—
It is familiar—but at the author's drift;
Who in his circumstance expressly proves
That no man is the lord of anything—
Though in and of him there is much consisting—
115 Till he communicate his parts to others;
Nor doth he of himself know them for aught
Till he behold them formèd in th'applause
Where they are extended, who, like an arch, reverb'rate
The voice again; or like a gate of steel
120 Fronting the sun, receives and renders back
His figure and his heat. I was much rapt in this,
And apprehended here immediately
The unknown Ajax.
Heavens, what a man is there! A very horse,
125 That has he knows not what. Nature, what things there are
Most abject in regard, and dear in use!
What things again most dear in the esteem,
And poor in worth! Now shall we see tomorrow
An act that very chance doth throw upon him:
130 Ajax renowned. O heavens, what some men do,
While some men leave to do!
How some men creep in skittish Fortune's hall,
Whiles others play the idiots in her eyes!
How one man eats into another's pride,
135 While pride is fasting in his wantonness!
To see these Grecian lords! Why, even already
They clap the lubber Ajax on the shoulder
As if his foot were on brave Hector's breast
And great Troy shrinking.

ACHILLES I do believe it,

9.101 **here** (probably indicating himself; possibly Patroclus)

9.107 **speculation** sight

9.110 **strain at** struggle to accept

9.110 **position** argument, stance

9.112 **circumstance** detailed development of an argument

9.112 **expressly** in full detail, explicitly

9.114 **Though . . . consisting** though both he in himself and his acts are of notable substance

9.115 **parts** qualities

9.118 **arch** vault

9.118 **reverb'rate** echo

9.119 **gate of steel** steel-plated doors

9.121 **figure** appearance

9.126 **abject in regard . . . dear in use** despised . . . useful

9.129 **very pure**

9.133 **idiots** (natural) fools

9.133 **eyes** presence, sight

9.134 **eats into** diminishes

9.135 **fasting in his wantonness** wasting himself away through his self-indulgence

9.137 **lubber** lout

9.139 **shrinking** weakening, diminishing; cowering, retreating in fear

- 140 For they passed by me as misers do by beggars:
Neither gave to me good word nor look.
What, are my deeds forgot?
- ULYSSES Time hath, my lord, a wallet at his back
Wherein he puts alms for oblivion—
- 145 A great-sized monster of ingritudes.
Those scraps are good deeds past,
Which are devoured as fast as they are made,
Forgot as soon as done. Persèverance, dear my lord,
Keeps honour bright. To have done is to hang
- 150 Quite out of fashion, like a rusty mail,
In monumental mock'ry. Take the instant way,
For honour travels in a strait so narrow
Where one but goes abreast. Keep then the path,
For emulation hath a thousand sons,
- 155 That one by one pursue. If you give way
Or hedge aside from the direct forthright,
Like to an entered tide they all rush by,
And leave you hindmost;
Or, like a gallant horse fall'n in first rank,
- 160 Lie there for pavement to the abject rear,
O'errun and trampled on. Then what they do in present,
Though less than yours in past, must o'ertop yours.
For Time is like a fashionable host
That slightly shakes his parting guest by th' hand,
- 165 And with his arms outstretched, as he would fly,
Grasps in the comer. Welcome ever smiles,
And Farewell goes out sighing. O, let not virtue seek
Remuneration for the thing it was; for beauty, wit,
High birth, vigour of bone, desert in service,
- 170 Love, friendship, charity, are subjects all
To envious and calumniating Time.
One touch of nature makes the whole world kin:
That all with one consent praise new-born gauds,
Though they are made and moulded of things past,
- 175 And give to dust that is a little gilt
More laud than gilt o'erdusted.
The present eye praises the present object.
Then marvel not, thou great and còmplete man,
That all the Greeks begin to worship Ajax;
- 180 Since things in motion sooner catch the eye
Than what not stirs. The cry went once on thee;
- 9.143 **wallet** satchel, beggar's bag
9.144 **alms** charitable donations
9.148 **Persèverance** (three syllables)
9.150 **mail** coat of armour
9.151 **In monumental mock'ry** as a mocking memorial (signifying what is *not* now being done)
9.151 **instant** direct
9.152 **strait** narrow passage
9.153 **one but** only one
9.156 **forthright** straight path
9.159 **rank** row, line (of attacking forces)
- 9.160 **abject rear** worthless cavalry behind
9.164 **slightly** neglectingly
9.165 **as he would** as if he wished to
9.171 **calumniating** slandering
9.172 **touch of nature** natural trait
9.173 **gauds** trivia, toys
9.175 **a little gilt** thinly gilded
9.176 **laud** praise
9.176 **gilt o'erdust** gold covered with dust
9.181 **cry** acclaim

185 And still it might, and yet it may again,
If thou wouldst not entomb thyself alive
And case thy reputation in thy tent,
Whose glorious deeds but in these fields of late
Made emulous missions 'mongst the gods themselves,
And draw great Mars to faction.

ACHILLES Of this my privacy,
I have strong reasons.

ULYSSES But 'gainst your privacy
 The reasons are more potent and heroical.
 190 'Tis known, Achilles, that you are in love
 With one of Priam's daughters.

ACHILLES Ha, known?

ULYSSES Is that a wonder?
 The providence that's in a watchful state
 195 Knows almost every grain of Pluto's gold,
 Finds bottom in th' uncomprehensive deeps,
 Keeps place with thought, and, almost like the gods,
 Do thought's escapes unveil in their dumb cradles.
 There is a mystery, with whom relation
 200 Durst never meddle, in the soul of state,
 Which hath an operation more divine
 Than breath or pen can give expreasure to.
 All the commèrce that you have had with Troy
 As perfectly is ours as yours, my lord;
 205 And better would it fit Achilles much
 To throw down Hector than Polixena.
 But it must grieve young Pyrrhus, now at home,
 When fame shall in our islands sound her trump,
 And all the Greekish girls shall tripping sing
 210 'Great Hector's sister did Achilles win,
 But our great Ajax bravely beat down him'.
 Farewell, my lord. I as your lover speak.
 The fool slides o'er the ice that you should break.

[Exit]

215 PATROCLUS To this effect, Achilles, have I moved you.
A woman impudent and mannish grown
Is not more loathed than an effeminate man
In time of action. I stand condemned for this:
They think my little stomach to the war

9.186 **emulous** envying (of Achilles), or rivalrous (between each other)

9.186 missions excursions into the world

9.187 to faction to take sides

9.191 one of Priam's daughters (Polyxena)

9.194 providence foresight

9.195 **Pluto** god of the underworld (regularly identified with Plutus, god of wealth)

9.196 bottom the seabed

9.196 uncomprehensive unimaginable

9.197 **Keeps place with** stays in the same place as, shares lodgings with

9.198 Do ... cradles i.e. discovers thoughts before they are spoken

9.198 **Do** does (assimilated to *gods*)

9.198 escapes outbursts, sallies of wit, slips of the tongue; transgressions (and specifically sexual transgression, with reference to its outcome in a child, as in *Titus Andronicus* 7.110)

9.199 relation report

9.202 **expression** expression

9.203 commerce dealings

9.206 **throw down** overthrow in battle; throw on the bed

9.207 Pyrrhus (Achilles' son in Greece)

9.210 Achilles (ambiguous: subject or object of *win*)

9.211 him Hector

9.212 lover good friend

9.213 The fool Ajax

9.215 impudent immodest

9.216 effeminate feeble, unmanly

9.218 stomach to appetite for

And your great love to me restrains you thus.

220 Sweet, rouse yourself, and the weak wanton Cupid
Shall from your neck unloose his amorous fold
And, like a dew-drop from the lion's mane,
Be shook to air.

ACHILLES Shall Ajax fight with Hector?

PATROCLUS Ay, and perhaps receive much honour by him.

225 ACHILLES I see my reputation is at stake,
My fame is shrewdly gored.

PATROCLUS O then beware.

Those wounds heal ill that men do give themselves.

Omission to do what is necessary

Seals a commission to a blank of danger,

230 And danger, like an ague, subtly taints
Even then when we sit idly in the sun.

ACHILLES Go call Thersites hither, sweet Patroclus.

I'll send the fool to Ajax, and desire him

T'invite the Trojan lords after the combat

235 To see us here unarmed. I have a woman's longing,
An appetite that I am sick withal,
To see great Hector in his weeds of peace,

Enter Thersites

To talk with him, and to behold his visage

Even to my full of view.—A labour saved!

240 THERSITES A wonder!

ACHILLES What?

THERSITES Ajax goes up and down the field, masquing for himself.

ACHILLES How so?

245 THERSITES He must fight singly tomorrow with Hector, and is so
prophetically proud of an heroical cudgelling that he raves in saying
nothing.

ACHILLES How can that be?

250 THERSITES Why, he stalks up and down like a peacock, a stride and a
stand; ruminates like an hostess that hath no arithmetic but her
brain to set down her reckoning; bites his lip with a politic regard,
as who should say 'There were wit in his head, an 'twould out'—and so
there is, but it lies as coldly in him as fire in a flint, which will not show
without knocking. The man's undone for ever; for if Hector break not
his neck i'th' combat, he'll break't himself in vainglory. He knows

9.237.1 *Enter Thersites*

Thersites' entry might be
delayed until after 'view',
9.239.

9.220–3 weak . . . air (alluding to Achilles' involvement with
Polyxena)

9.221 fold embrace

9.226 shrewdly gored severely wounded

9.229 Seals . . . danger (Danger is the unnamed addressee given
authority to act, and/or the unspecified action.)

9.229 commission warrant of authority

9.229 blank charter

9.230–1 danger . . . sun fever may cause shivering even when one
is sitting in the sunshine

9.230 subtly taints insidiously corrupts

9.231 idly in the sun (Sunshine was thought to spread contagion.)

9.235 woman's longing pregnant woman's craving

9.237 weeds garments

9.239 my full of view the fullest satisfaction of my eyes

9.242 masquing for himself as if playing himself in a masque
(suggesting an extravagantly costumed and overacted one-man
performance)

9.244 must is to

9.245 prophetically before the fact, presumptuously

9.245 cudgelling beating (by Hector, with a distinctly unheroic
weapon)

9.249 arithmetic aid for computation (such as a multiplication
table)

9.250 set down fix, determine

9.250 reckoning bill

9.250 politic regard judicious expression

9.252 as coldly . . . flint (proverbial)

9.253 knocking striking

255 not me. I said, 'Good morrow, Ajax,' and he replies, 'Thanks, Agamemnon.'
 What think you of this man that takes me for the general? He's
 grown a very land-fish, languageless, a monster. A plague of opinion!
 A man may wear it on both sides, like a leather jerkin.

ACHILLES Thou must be my ambassador to him, Thersites.

260 THERSITES Who, I? Why, he'll answer nobody; he professes
 not-answering. Speaking is for beggars; he wears his tongue in's arms.
 I will put on his presence. Let Patroclus make his demands to me, you
 shall see the Pageant of Ajax.

ACHILLES To him, Patroclus. Tell him I humbly desire the valiant Ajax
 265 to invite the most valorous Hector to come unarmed to my tent, and
 to procure safe conduct for his person of the magnanimous and
 most illustrious six- or seven-times honoured captain-general of the
 Grecian army Agamemnon, et cetera. Do this.

PATROCLUS [*to Thersites*] Jove bless great Ajax!

270 THERSITES Hm!

PATROCLUS I come from the worthy Achilles—

THERSITES Ha?

PATROCLUS Who most humbly desires you to invite Hector to his tent.

THERSITES [*as Ajax*] Hm!

275 PATROCLUS And to procure safe conduct from Agamemnon.

THERSITES [*as Ajax*] Agamemnon?

PATROCLUS Ay, my lord.

THERSITES [*as Ajax*] Ha!

PATROCLUS What say you to't?

280 THERSITES [*as Ajax*] God b'wi' you, with all my heart.

PATROCLUS Your answer, sir.

THERSITES [*as Ajax*] If tomorrow be a fair day, by eleven o'clock it will
 go one way or other. Howsoever, he shall pay for me ere he has me.

PATROCLUS Your answer, sir.

285 THERSITES [*as Ajax*] Fare you well, with all my heart.

ACHILLES Why, but he is not in this tune, is he?

THERSITES No, but he's out o' tune thus. What music will be in him
 when Hector has knocked out his brains I know not; but I am sure none
 unless the fiddler Apollo get his sinews to make catlings on.

290 ACHILLES Come, thou shalt bear a letter to him straight.

THERSITES Let me carry another to his horse, for that's the more
 capable creature.

ACHILLES My mind is troubled like a fountain stirred,
 And I myself see not the bottom of it.

[*Exeunt Achilles and Patroclus*]

295 THERSITES Would the fountain of your mind were clear again, that I
 might water an ass at it. I had rather be a tick in a sheep than such
 a valiant ignorance. [Exit]

9.257 **land-fish** (the epitome of an unnatural creature)

9.257 **of on**

9.257 **opinion** self-regard

9.258 **on both sides** as an inward quality on in public display? as a
 virtue or a vice?

9.260 **professes** makes a declared habit of

9.261 **arms** armour, military prowess (punning on the limbs)

9.262 **put on** imitate

9.280 **God . . . heart** (a dismissive farewell ignoring the question)

9.283 **Howsoever** whichever way

9.286 **tune** humour, vein (Thersites replies taking the musical
 sense.)

9.289 **the fiddler** (Apollo was depicted playing the more refined
 lute.)

9.289 **catlings** fiddle strings made of catgut

9.292 **capable** intelligent

9.293 **fountain** spring, well

Sc. 10

4.1 Enter at one door Aeneas with a torch, at another Paris, Deiphobus,
Antenor, Diomed the Grecian, with torches

PARIS See, ho, who is that there?

DEIPHOBUS It is the Lord Aeneas.

AENEAS Is the prince there in person?

Had I so good occasion to lie long

As you, Prince Paris, nothing but heavenly business

5 Should rob my bed-mate of my company.

DIOMED That's my mind too. Good morrow, Lord Aeneas.

PARIS A valiant Greek, Aeneas; take his hand—

Witness the process of your speech within.

You told how Diomed in a whole week by days

10 Did haunt you in the field.

AENEAS Health to you, valiant sir,

During all question of the gentle truce.

But when I meet you armed, as black defiance

As heart can think or courage execute.

DIOMED The one and other Diomed embraces.

15 Our bloods are now in calm; and so long, health.

But when contention and occasion meets,

By Jove, I'll play the hunter for thy life

With all my force, pursuit, and policy.

AENEAS And thou shalt hunt a lion that will fly

20 With his face backward. In human gentleness,

Welcome to Troy; now by Anchises' life,

Welcome indeed. By Venus' hand I swear,

No man alive can love in such a sort

The thing he means to kill more excellently.

25 DIOMED We sympathize. Jove let Aeneas live,

If to my sword his fate be not the glory,

A thousand complete courses of the sun;

But, in mine emulous honour, let him die

With every joint a wound, and that tomorrow.

30 AENEAS We know each other well.

DIOMED We do, and long to know each other worse.

PARIS This is the most despitefull'st-gentle greeting,

The noblest-hateful love, that e'er I heard of.

[To Aeneas] What business, lord, so early?

35 AENEAS I was sent for to the King; but why I know not.

PARIS His purpose meets you; it was to bring this Greek

To Calchas' house, and there to render him,

For the enfreed Antenor, the fair Cressid.

Let's have your company; or, if you please,

40 Haste there before us. [Aside to Aeneas] I constantly do think,

4.1 10.0.1–2 Enter . . .

torches Torches, probably carried by servants, indicate a night-time meeting. Dawn is approaching.

4.1 10.8 Witness (that he is valiant)

10.8 process gist

10.9 by days day by day

10.10 haunt pursue, afflict

10.11 question of conversations during

10.16 contention and occasion meet i.e. it is time to fight

10.19–20 will . . . backward still fight even as he retreats

10.21–2 Anchises . . . Venus (Aeneas' parents)

10.25 sympathize are alike, feel the same

10.28 in . . . honour speaking as one competitively greedy for glory

10.40 constantly firmly

- Or rather call my thought a certain knowledge,
 My brother Troilus lodges there tonight.
 Rouse him, and give him note of our approach,
 With the whole quality whereof. I fear
 45 We shall be much unwelcome.
- AENEAS [*aside to Paris*] That I assure you.
 Troilus had rather Troy were borne to Greece
 Than Cressid borne from Troy.
- PARIS [*aside to Aeneas*] There is no help.
 The bitter disposition of the time
 Will have it so. [*Aloud to Aeneas*] On, lord; we'll follow you.
- 50 AENEAS Good morrow all. *Exit Aeneas*
- PARIS And tell me, noble Diomed, faith, tell me true,
 Even in the soul of sound good fellowship,
 Who in your thoughts merits fair Helen most,
 Myself or Menelaus?
- DIOMED Both alike.
- 55 He merits well to have her that doth seek her,
 Not making any scruple of her soilure,
 With such a hell of pain and world of charge;
 And you as well to keep her that defend her,
 Not pallating the taste of her dishonour,
 60 With such a costly loss of wealth and friends.
 He, like a puling cuckold, would drink up
 The lees and dregs of a flat 'tamèd piece;
 You, like a lecher, out of whorish loins
 Are pleased to breed out your inheritors.
- 65 Both merits poised, each weighs no less nor more
 But he as he. Which heavier for a whore?
- PARIS You are too bitter to your countrywoman.
- DIOMED She's bitter to her country. Hear me, Paris:
 For every false drop in her bawdy veins
 70 A Grecian's life hath sunk; for every scruple
 Of her contaminated carrion weight
 A Trojan hath been slain. Since she could speak
 She hath not given so many good words breath
 As, for her, Greeks and Trojans suffered death.
- 75 PARIS Fair Diomed, you do as chapmen do,
 Dispraise the thing that you desire to buy.
 But we in silence hold this virtue well:
 We'll but commend what we intend to sell.
 Here lies our way. *Exeunt*

10.51 And tell me Paris
 opens up this conversation to
 detain Diomed while Aeneas
 goes ahead to speak to Troilus.

10.44 **quality** cause

10.57 **charge** expense

10.61 **puling** whining

10.62 **flat** stale; dull

10.62 'tamèd broached, penetrated (like a barrel); insipid, tractable

10.62 **piece** cask of wine; piece of flesh, woman (derogatory)

10.65 **poised** weighed in the balance

10.66 **he as he** one the same as the other

10.66 **heavier** of greater weight or 'merit'; more sorrowful

10.66 **whore** (proverbially 'light' in the sense of promiscuous)

10.70 **scruple** tiny unit of weight (1/24 ounce)

10.71 **carrion** rotten, putrid

10.75 **chapmen** dealers (both buyers and sellers)

10.77 **hold this virtue well** highly esteem this skill

10.78 **We'll . . . sell** We don't intend to bargain for Helen, so we won't praise her.

10.78 **but** only

Sc. 11

4.2 Enter Troilus and Cressida

TROILUS Dear, trouble not yourself. The morn is cold.

CRESSID Then, sweet my lord, I'll call mine uncle down.

He shall unbolt the gates.

TROILUS Trouble him not.

To bed, to bed! Sleep lull those pretty eyes,

5 And give as soft attachment to thy senses

As infants empty of all thought.

CRESSID Good morrow then.

TROILUS I prithee now, to bed.

CRESSID Are you aweary of me?

10 TROILUS O Cressida! But that the busy day,

Waked by the lark, hath roused the ribald crows,

And dreaming night will hide our eyes no longer,

I would not from thee.

CRESSID Night hath been too brief.

TROILUS Beshrew the witch! With venomous wights she stays

15 As hideously as hell, but flies the grasps of love

With wings more momentary-swift than thought.

You will catch cold, and curse me.

CRESSID Prithee, tarry. You men will never tarry.

O foolish Cressid, I might have still held off,

20 And then you would have tarried.—Hark, there's one up!

PANDARUS (*within*) What's all the doors open here?

TROILUS It is your uncle.

Enter Pandarus

CRESSID A pestilence on him! Now will he be mocking.

I shall have such a life.

25 PANDARUS How now, how now? How go maidenheads? Hear you, maid: where's my cousin Cressid?

CRESSID Go hang yourself, you naughty mocking uncle!

You bring me to do, and then you flout me too.

PANDARUS To do what, to do what? Let her say what. What have I

30 brought you to do?

CRESSID Come, come, beshrew your heart! You'll ne'er be good,

Nor suffer others.

PANDARUS Ha, ha! Alas, poor wretch, a poor *che poccia*. Has't not slept tonight? Would he not—ah, naughty man!—let it sleep? A bugbear

35 take him!

CRESSID [*to Troilus*] Did not I tell you? Would he were knocked i'th' head!

One knocks [*within*]

Who's that at door? Good uncle, go and see.

[*To Troilus*] My lord, come you again into my chamber.

You smile and mock me as if I meant naughtily.

4.2 11.0 Enter Troilus and

Cressida Troilus may be dressed, but Cressid is evidently in her nightgown.

11.25–6 Hear . . . Cressid?

Pandarus deliberately fails to recognize Cressid in order to mock her.

11.34–5 Would . . . him!

Pandarus mockingly addresses Cressid as if a child.

11.36.1 One knocks *within*

Sometimes placed earlier

4.2 11.5 attachment imprisonment

11.14 venomous wights embittered people (unable to sleep)

11.15 flies flees

11.16 With . . . thought (Thought is proverbially swift.)

11.21 What's why are

11.27 naughty wicked (the disapproval is stronger than in modern usage)

11.28 do have sex; do something (as Pandarus assumes)

11.28 flout mock

11.32 suffer others allow others to be good

11.33 *che poccia* Italianate euphemism for 'vulva', hence, reductively, 'woman'

11.34 bugbear hobgoblin (supposed to devour little boys)

11.36 knocked i'th' head killed (used jocularly)

40 TROILUS Ha ha!

CRESSID Come, you are deceived, I think of no such thing.

Knock [within]

How earnestly they knock! Pray you, come in.

I would not for half Troy have you seen here.

Exeunt [Cressid and Troilus]

PANDARUS Who's there? What's the matter? Will you beat down the door?

45

[He opens the door. Enter Aeneas]

How now, what's the matter?

AENEAS Good morrow, lord, good morrow.

PANDARUS Who's there? My Lord Aeneas? By my troth, I knew you not.

What news with you so early?

50

AENEAS Is not Prince Troilus here?

PANDARUS Here? What should he do here?

AENEAS Come, he is here, my lord. Do not deny him.

It doth import him much to speak with me.

PANDARUS Is he here, say you? 'Tis more than I know, I'll be sworn. For my own part, I came in late. What should he do here?

55

AENEAS Whoa, nay then! Come, come, you'll do him wrong ere you're ware. You'll be so true to him to be false to him. Do not you know of him, but yet go fetch him hither. Go.

[Exit Pandarus]

Enter Troilus

TROILUS How now, what's the matter?

60

AENEAS My lord, I scarce have leisure to salute you,

My matter is so rash. There is at hand

Paris your brother and Deiphobus,

The Grecian Diomed, and our Antenor

Delivered to us. And for him forthwith,

65

Ere the first sacrifice, within this hour,

We must give up to Diomedes' hand

The Lady Cressida.

TROILUS Is it concluded so?

AENEAS By Priam and the general state of Troy.

They are at hand, and ready to effect it.

70

TROILUS How my achievements mock me!

I will go meet them. And, my Lord Aeneas,

We met by chance; you did not find me here.

AENEAS Good, good, my lord. The secrets of nature

Have not more gift in taciturnity.

Exeunt

Sc. 12

4.3

Enter Pandarus and Cressid

PANDARUS Is't possible? No sooner got but lost? The devil take Antenor! The young prince will go mad. A plague upon Antenor! I would they had broke's neck.

11.43.1 *Exeunt Cressid and Troilus* Pandarus might exit after 11.35, and re-enter here, beginning a new scene.

11.45.1 *Enter Aeneas* (often delayed till just before he speaks)

11.58 *Exit Pandarus* Or he may stay on stage. Perhaps Troilus comes forward voluntarily, having heard the conversation from within.

4.3 12.0 *Pandarus and Cressid* Pandarus may not have left at 11.58; Cressid might enter after 12.3.

11.41 **thing** (often = 'penis')

11.53 **import** concern

11.56 **Whoa** (as though stopping a horse; Pandarus protests too much)

11.57 **true** loyal

11.57 **to be** as to be

11.61 **rash** urgent

11.68 **general state** council, government

11.73 **Good** fine, for sure

4.3 12.0 *Enter* Most modern editors do not make a scene-break here; this affects the numbering of the following lines and scenes.

- CRESSID How now, what's the matter? Who was here?
- 5 PANDARUS Ah, ah!
- CRESSID Why sigh you so profoundly? Where's my lord? Gone? Tell me,
sweet uncle, what's the matter?
- PANDARUS Would I were as deep under the earth as I am above!
- CRESSID O the gods! What's the matter?
- 10 PANDARUS Prithee, get thee in. Would thou hadst ne'er been born!
I knew thou wouldst be his death. O poor gentleman! A plague upon
Antenor!
- CRESSID Good uncle, I beseech you, on my knees I beseech you, what's
the matter?
- 15 PANDARUS Thou must be gone, wench, thou must be gone. Thou art
changed for Antenor. Thou must to thy father, and be gone from Troilus.
'Twill be his death, 'twill be his bane; he cannot bear it.
- CRESSID O you immortal gods! I will not go.
- PANDARUS Thou must.
- 20 CRESSID I will not, uncle. I have forgot my father.
I know no touch of consanguinity,
No kin, no love, no blood, no soul, so near me
As the sweet Troilus. O you gods divine,
Make Cressid's name the very crown of falsehood
- 25 If ever she leave Troilus! Time, force, and death,
Do to this body what extremity you can,
But the strong base and building of my love
Is as the very centre of the earth,
Drawing all things to it. I will go in and weep—
- 30 PANDARUS Do, do.
- CRESSID Tear my bright hair, and scratch my praised cheeks,
Crack my clear voice with sobs, and break my heart
With sounding 'Troilus!' I will not go from Troy. *Exeunt*

Sc. 13

- 4.4 *Enter Paris, Troilus, Aeneas, Deiphobus, Antenor, and Diomed*

- PARIS It is great morning, and the hour prefixed
Of her delivery to this valiant Greek
Comes fast upon. Good my brother Troilus,
Tell you the lady what she is to do,
5 And haste her to the purpose.
- TROILUS Walk into her house.
I'll bring her to the Grecian presently;
And to his hand when I deliver her,
Think it an altar, and thy brother Troilus
A priest there offering to it his heart.
- 10 PARIS I know what 'tis to love,
And would, as I shall pity, I could help.
Please you walk in, my lords. *Exeunt*

4.4 13.12 *Exeunt* Troilus
could exit separately.

12.16 **changed** exchanged
12.17 **bane** destruction
12.24 **crown** height
12.27 **building** fixed position

4.4 13.1 **great morning** broad daylight
13.1 **prefixed** arranged
13.6 **presently** immediately
13.11 **would** wish

Sc. 14

4.5 *Enter Pandarus and Cressid*

PANDARUS Be moderate, be moderate.

CRESSID Why tell you me of moderation?

The grief is fine, full perfect, that I taste,
And no less violent in a sense as strong

5 As that which causeth it. How can I moderate it?

If I could temporize with my affection,
Or brew it to a weak and colder palate,
The like allayment could I give my grief.

My love admits no qualifying dross;

10 No more my grief, in such a precious loss.

Enter Troilus

PANDARUS Here, here, here he comes. Ah, sweet duck!

CRESSID [*embracing Troilus*] O Troilus, Troilus!PANDARUS What a pair of spectacles is here! Let me embrace too. 'O
heart', as the goodly saying is,

15 'O heart, heavy heart,

Why sighest thou without breaking?

Where he answers again:

'Because thou canst not ease thy smart

By friendship nor by speaking.'

20 There was never a truer rhyme. Let us cast away nothing, for we may live
to have need of such a verse. We see it, we see it. How now, lambs?

TROILUS Cressid, I love thee in so strange a purity

That the blest gods, as angry with my fancy,

More bright in zeal than the devotion which

25 Cold lips blow to their deities, take thee from me.

CRESSID Have the gods envy?

PANDARUS Ay, ay, ay, ay, 'tis too plain a case.

CRESSID And is it true that I must go from Troy?

TROILUS A hateful truth.

CRESSID What, and from Troilus too?

30 TROILUS From Troy and Troilus.

CRESSID Is't possible?

TROILUS And suddenly, where injury of chance

Puts back leave-taking, jostles roughly by

All time of pause, rudely beguiles our lips

Of all rejoindure, forcibly prevents

35 Our locked embrasures, strangles our dear vows

Even in the birth of our own labouring breath.

We two, that with so many thousand sighs

Did buy each other, must poorly sell ourselves

With the rude brevity and discharge of one.

40 Injurious time now with a robber's haste

4.5 14.3 fine pure, clear

14.3 full perfect completely unblemished

14.4 sense response to sensation

14.5 that which causeth it her love

14.6 temporize with my affection arrange a compromise with my
feelings of love

14.7 brew dilute

14.8 allayment dilution

14.9 qualifying dross modifying impurity

14.13 spectacles sights (but punning on 'glasses')

14.22 strange exceptional

14.23 fancy love

14.31 suddenly straight away

14.31 where whereby

14.32 Puts back repulses, prevents

14.34 rejoindure joining again

14.35 embrasures embracings

14.36 labouring (as in childbirth)

- Crams his rich thievery up, he knows not how.
 As many farewells as be stars in heaven,
 With distinct breath and consigned kisses to them,
 He fumbles up into a loose adieu,
 45 And scants us with a single famished kiss,
 Distasting with the salt of broken tears.
- AENEAS (*within*) My lord, is the lady ready?
 TROILUS [*to Cressid*] Hark, you are called. Some say the genius so
 Cries 'Come!' to him that instantly must die.
 50 [*To Pandarus*] Bid them have patience; she shall come anon.
- PANDARUS Where are my tears? Rain, to lay this wind, or my heart will
 be blown up by the root. [*Exit*]
 CRESSID I must then to the Grecians?
 TROILUS No remedy.
 CRESSID A woeful Cressid 'mongst the merry Greeks!
 55 When shall we see again?
- TROILUS Hear me, my love. Be thou but true of heart—
 CRESSID I true? How now! What wicked deem is this?
 TROILUS Nay, we must use expostulation kindly,
 For it is parting from us.
 60 I speak not 'Be thou true' as fearing thee,
 For I will throw my glove to death himself
 That there's no maculation in thy heart;
 But 'Be thou true,' say I, to fashion in
 My sequent protestation: 'Be thou true,
 65 And I will see thee.'
- CRESSID O, you shall be exposed, my lord, to dangers
 As infinite as imminent. But I'll be true.
 TROILUS And I'll grow friend with danger. Wear this sleeve.
 CRESSID And you this glove. When shall I see you?
 70 TROILUS I will corrupt the Grecian sentinels,
 To give thee nightly visitation.
 But yet be true.
 CRESSID O heavens! 'Be true' again?
 TROILUS Hear why I speak it, love.
 75 The Grecian youths are full of quality,
 Their loving well composed, with gift of nature
 Flowing, and swelling o'er with arts and exercise.
 How novelties may move, and parts with person,
 Alas, a kind of godly jealousy,
 80 Which, I beseech you, call a virtuous sin,
 Makes me afraid.

4-5 14.47 *within* He is said to 'Enter' in the 1623 text. By this alternative, he would leave with Pandarus after 14.52.

14.41 **thievery** stolen goods

14.43 **distinct** separate

14.43 **consigned** assigned, given in trust; ratifying

14.44 **fumbles up** clumsily gathers up; confusedly articulates

14.45 **scants** withholds all but, grudgingly releases

14.46 **broken** interrupted

14.48 **genius** guardian spirit

14.51 **Rain, to lay this wind** (Tears and sighs were proverbially like rain and wind; rain was thought to calm the wind.)

14.54 **merry Greeks** (slang for 'roisterers')

14.57 **deem** thought

14.58 **expostulation** remonstrance (personified as a departing guest)

14.61 **throw my glove** (in challenge)

14.62 **That** to assert that

14.62 **maculation** stain (of unfaithfulness)

14.63 **fashion in** give a shape to, 'work in'

14.68 **sleeve** (often detachable)

14.71 **To . . . visitation** so that I can visit you by (and perhaps every) night

14.75 **quality** accomplishment

14.77 **arts and exercise** skill and practice

14.78 **parts with person** talent and good looks

CRESSID O heavens, you love me not!

TROILUS Die I a villain then.

In this I do not call your faith in question

85 So mainly as my merit. I cannot sing,
Nor heel the high lavolt, nor sweeten talk,
Nor play at subtle games—fair virtues all,
To which the Grecians are most prompt and pregnant.

But I can tell that in each grace of these

90 There lurks a still and dumb-discursive devil
That tempts most cunningly. But be not tempted.

CRESSID Do you think I will?

TROILUS No, but something may be done that we will not,

And sometimes we are devils to ourselves,

95 When we will tempt the frailty of our powers,
Presuming on their changeful potency.

AENEAS (*within*) Nay, good my lord!

TROILUS Come, kiss, and let us part.

PARIS (*within*) Brother Troilus!

TROILUS Good brother, come you hither,

And bring Aeneas and the Grecian with you.

100 CRESSID My lord, will you be true?

TROILUS Who, I? Alas, it is my vice, my fault.

Whiles others fish with craft for great opinion,

I with great truth catch mere simplicity.

Whilst some with cunning gild their copper crowns,

105 With truth and plainness I do wear mine bare.

*Enter [Paris and] the Greeks: [Diomed, Aeneas, Antenor, and
Deiphobus]*

Fear not my truth. The moral of my wit
Is 'Plain and true'; there's all the reach of it.—

Welcome, Sir Diomed. Here is the lady

Which, for Antenor, we deliver you.

110 At the port, lord, I'll give her to thy hand,

And by the way possess thee what she is.

Entreat her fair, and, by my soul, fair Greek,

If e'er thou stand at mercy of my sword,

Name Cressid and thy life shall be as safe

115 As Priam is in Ilium.

DIOMED Fair Lady Cressid,

So please you, save the thanks this prince expects.

The lustre in your eye, heaven in your cheek,

Pleads your fair usage, and to Diomed

You shall be mistress, and command him wholly.

14.98 *within* Alternatively,
Paris might appear here and
leave after 14.99.

14.105.1–2 *Enter . . .
Deiphobus* They could enter
two lines below.

14.84 **faith** fidelity; religious belief

14.85 **mainly** greatly

14.85 **merit** deserts; good works, deserving of salvation

14.86 **heel** dance

14.86 **lavolt** (a dance involving spectacular jumps)

14.88 **pregnant** ready

14.90 **dumb-discursive** silently communicative

14.93 **will not** do not will

14.96 **changeful potency** power which is actually unreliable

14.102 **craft** guile

14.102 **opinion** reputation

14.103 **mere** absolute

14.103 **simplicity** rusticity; sincerity

14.104 **crowns** coins; heads

14.105 **wear** dress; erode

14.106 **moral** maxim

14.110 **port** gate (of the city)

14.111 **possess** inform

14.112 **Entreat** treat

14.116 **save** don't bother about

- 120 TROILUS Grecian, thou dost not use me courteously
 To shame the zeal of my petition towards thee
 In praising her. I tell thee, lord of Greece,
 She is as far high-soaring o'er thy praises
 As thou unworthy to be called her servant.
- 125 I charge thee use her well, even for my charge;
 For, by the dreadful Pluto, if thou dost not,
 Though the great bulk Achilles be thy guard,
 I'll cut thy throat.
- DIOMED O be not moved, Prince Troilus.
 Let me be privileged by my place and message
- 130 To be a speaker free. When I am hence
 I'll answer to my lust; and know, my lord,
 I'll nothing do on charge. To her own worth
 She shall be prized; but that you say 'Be't so',
 I'll speak it in my spirit and honour 'No'.
- 135 TROILUS [*to Cressid*] Come, to the port.—I'll tell thee, Diomed,
 This brave shall oft make thee to hide thy head.—
 Lady, give me your hand, and as we walk
 To our own selves bend we our needful talk.

[*Exeunt Troilus, Cressid, and Diomed*]

Sound trumpet [within]

- PARIS Hark, Hector's trumpet.
- AENEAS How have we spent this morning!
- 140 The Prince must think me tardy and remiss
 That swore to ride before him in the field.
- PARIS 'Tis Troilus' fault. Come, come, to field with him.
- DEIPHOBUS Let us make ready straight.
- AENEAS Yea, with a bridegroom's fresh alacrity
- 145 Let us address to tend on Hector's heels.
 The glory of our Troy doth this day lie
 On his fair worth and single chivalry.

[*Exeunt*]

Sc. 15

- 4.6 Enter Ajax armed, Achilles, Patroclus, Agamemnon, Menelaus, Ulysses,
 Nestor, Calchas, [*a trumpeter,*] and others

- AGAMEMNON Here art thou in appointment fresh and fair,
 Anticipating time with starting courage.
 Give with thy trumpet a loud note to Troy,
 Thou dreadful Ajax, that the appallèd air
- 5 May pierce the head of the great combatant
 And hale him hither.

AJAX Thou trumpet, there's my purse.

[*He gives the trumpeter money*]

4.6 15.0.1–2 Enter . . .

others If present, Calchas has no lines, and in the kissing sequence he occupies an uncomfortable position as Cressid's father. Shakespeare may have wanted a full stage, and his impotent silence may have its own dramatic effect.

14.124 **servant** (like *mistress*, 14.119, a cliché of courtly love)

14.125 **even for my charge** simply because I command it

14.128 **moved** angry

14.129 **place** office (as representative of the Greeks)

14.131 **answer to my lust** do as I please (with an unpleasant implication in *lust*)

14.132 **charge** command

14.133 **that** simply because

14.136 **brave** boast

14.145 **address** prepare

4.6 15.1 **appointment** equipment

15.2 **anticipating time** (Ajax has not waited for Hector to appear with his challenge.)

15.2 **starting** bounding

15.6 **hale** draw, drag

15.6 **trumpet** trumpeter

Now crack thy lungs and split thy brazen pipe.
 Blow, villain, till thy spherèd bias cheek
 Outswell the colic of puffed Aquilon.
 10 Come, stretch thy chest, and let thy eyes spout blood.
 Thou blowest for Hector.

[The trumpet sounds]

ULYSSES No trumpet answers.

ACHILLES 'Tis but early days.

AGAMEMNON Is not yond Diomed with Calchas' daughter?

15 ULYSSES 'Tis he; I ken the manner of his gait.

He rises on the toe. That spirit of his
 In aspiration lifts him from the earth.

[Enter Diomed and Cressid]

AGAMEMNON Is this the Lady Cressid?

DIOMED Even she.

AGAMEMNON Most dearly welcome to the Greeks, sweet lady.

[He kisses her]

20 NESTOR Our general doth salute you with a kiss.

ULYSSES Yet is the kindness but particular.

'Twere better she were kissed in general.

NESTOR And very courtly counsel. I'll begin.

[He kisses her]

So much for Nestor.

25 ACHILLES I'll take that winter from your lips, fair lady.

Achilles bids you welcome.

[He kisses her]

MENELAUS I had good argument for kissing once.

PATROCLUS But that's no argument for kissing now,

For thus popped Paris in his hardiment,

[He steps between Menelaus and Cressid]

30 And parted thus you and your argument.

[He kisses her]

ULYSSES O deadly gall, and theme of all our scorns,

For which we lose our heads to gild his horns!

PATROCLUS The first was Menelaus' kiss; this mine.

Patroclus kisses you.

[He kisses her again]

MENELAUS O, this is trim!

35 PATROCLUS *[to Cressid]* Paris and I kiss evermore for him.

MENELAUS I'll have my kiss, sir.—Lady, by your leave.

15.7 **pipe** trumpet; windpipe

15.8 **bias** rounded, puffed out

15.9 **colic** intestinal pain associated with bloating, flatulence

15.9 **Aquilon** the north wind (Winds on maps were represented as human heads blowing.)

15.15 **ken** recognize

15.21 **particular** single, individual (punning on the two meanings of 'general')

15.25 **winter** (Achilles implies that Nestor's kiss is frozen with old age.)

15.27 **argument** reason (meaning the beauty of his wife, Helen)

15.29 **popped** entered, thrust in

15.29 **hardiment** boldness (but suggesting 'tumescence')

15.34 **trim** marvellous (sarcastic)

15.35 **kiss evermore** always do his kissing

- CRESSID In kissing do you render or receive?
 MENELAUS Both take and give.
 CRESSID I'll make my match to live,
 The kiss you take is better than you give;
 40 Therefore no kiss.
 MENELAUS I'll give you boot: I'll give you three for one.
 CRESSID You are an odd man. Give even or give none.
 MENELAUS An odd man, lady? Every man is odd.
 CRESSID No, Paris is not; for you know 'tis true
 45 That you are odd, and he is even with you.
 MENELAUS You fillip me o'th' head.
 CRESSID No, I'll be sworn.
 ULYSSES It were no match, your nail against his horn.
 May I, sweet lady, beg a kiss of you?
 CRESSID You may.
 ULYSSES I do desire it.
 CRESSID Why, beg then too.
 50 ULYSSES Why then, for Venus' sake, give me a kiss
 When Helen is a maid again, and his.
 CRESSID I am your debtor; claim it when 'tis due.
 ULYSSES Never's my day, and then a kiss of you.
 DIOMED Lady, a word. I'll bring you to your father.
 55 NESTOR [to Ulysses] A woman of quick sense.
 ULYSSES Fie, fie, upon her!
 There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip;
 Nay, her foot speaks. Her wanton spirits look out
 At every joint and motive of her body.
 O, these encounterers, so glib of tongue,
 60 That give accosting welcome ere it comes,
 And wide unclasp the tables of their thoughts
 To every ticklish reader! Set them down
 For sluttish spoils of opportunity,
 And daughters of the game. *Exeunt [Diomed and Cressid]*
Flourish. Enter all of Troy: Hector [armed], Paris, Aeneas, [Troilus],
Helenus, and attendants
 65 ALL The Trojans' trumpet.
 AGAMEMNON Yonder comes the troop.
 AENEAS Hail, all you state of Greece! What shall be done
 To him that victory commands? Or do you purpose

15.54 *Lady . . . father.*
 Diomed and Cressid remain
 on stage until after 15.64,
 talking apart, or leave here.

15.64.1 *Hector armed* Or
 he might arm during the
 scene.

15.38 **make . . . live** wager my life
 15.41 **boot** advantage, profit
 15.42, 43, 45 **odd** strange; singular; odd number (compare *even*);
 left out, lacking a partner
 15.45 **even** quits
 15.46 **fillip . . . head** flip me over, as with tossing a coin with the
 thumb to land heads-up
 15.47 **nail** fingernail (Menelaus cuckold's horn being softer)
 15.50 **for Venus' sake** Beggars would ask alms 'for the sake of God'
 or a saint.
 15.51 **his** Menelaus'
 15.53 **day** the day when payment is due
 15.55 **quick sense** sharp wits; bristling sensuality
 15.58 **motive** moving part

15.59 **encounterers** flirts, teases
 15.60 **accosting** an approach
 15.61 **tables** writing-tablet (usually wax, fastened with a clasp)
 14.62 **ticklish** titillated, aroused
 15.62 **Set them down** classify them
 15.63 **spoils of opportunity** women subject to (or who subject
 themselves to) opportunistic sexual plunder (varies 'spoils of
 war')
 15.64 **daughters of the game** women destined to (or devoted to)
 pursuing sex, with an analogy to hunting
 15.65 **Trojans' trumpet** (can be misheard as 'Trojan strumpet',
 meaning Cressid)
 15.66 **state** nobility

A victor shall be known? Will you the knights
 Shall to the edge of all extremity
 70 Pursue each other, or shall they be divided
 By any voice or order of the field?
 Hector bade ask.

AGAMEMNON Which way would Hector have it?

AENEAS He cares not; he'll obey conditions.

ACHILLES 'Tis done like Hector—but securely done,
 75 A little proudly, and great deal disprising
 The knight opposed.

AENEAS If not Achilles, sir,
 What is your name?

ACHILLES If not Achilles, nothing.

AENEAS Therefore Achilles. But whate'er, know this:

In the extremity of great and little
 80 Valour and pride excel themselves in Hector,
 The one almost as infinite as all,
 The other blank as nothing. Weigh him well,
 And that which looks like pride is courtesy.
 This Ajax is half made of Hector's blood;
 85 In love whereof half Hector stays at home;
 Half heart, half hand, half Hector comes to seek
 This blended knight, half Trojan and half Greek.

ACHILLES A maiden battle then? O, I perceive you.

[Enter Diomed]

AGAMEMNON Here is Sir Diomed. [To Diomed] Go, gentle knight,
 90 Stand by our Ajax. As you and Lord Aeneas
 Consent upon the order of their fight,
 So be it: either to the uttermost
 Or else a breath. The combatants being kin
 Half stints their strife before their strokes begin.

95 ULYSSES They are opposed already.

AGAMEMNON What Trojan is that same that looks so heavy?

ULYSSES The youngest son of Priam, a true knight.

They call him Troilus.
 Not yet mature, yet matchless, firm of word;
 100 Speaking in deeds, and deedless in his tongue;
 Not soon provoked, nor being provoked soon calmed;
 His heart and hand both open, and both free.
 For what he has, he gives, what thinks, he shows;
 Yet gives he not till judgement guide his bounty,
 105 Nor dignifies an impair thought with breath;
 Manly as Hector, but more dangerous;
 For Hector in his blaze of wrath subscribes

15.74 'Tis done like Hector
 Alternatively, spoken by
 Agamemnon

15.93 **breath.** By an
 alternative staging, Ajax,
 Diomed, Hector, and Aeneas
 leave here; the stage is cleared
 after 15.118; Hector and Ajax
 then enter fighting with
 Diomed interposing; and
 Agamemnon, Aeneas,
 Ulysses, Menelaus, Nestor,
 Achilles, Patroclus, Troilus,
 perhaps Calchas, and others
 enter after 15.160.

15.95 **They are opposed
 already.** Hector and Ajax
 have stepped into the combat
 area and are standing face to
 face, getting ready to fight.
 The Greeks and Trojans are
 probably grouped separately,
 to the stage rear. They might
 be separated from the
 combatants by soldiers with
 pikes, swords, or a rope.

15.68 **Will you** do you wish that
 15.69 **edge of all extremity** point of death
 15.71 **voice** marshal, umpire
 15.71 **order of the field** rules of combat
 15.73 **conditions** whatever rules you choose
 15.74 **securely** overconfidently
 15.75 **disprising** underestimating
 15.84 **Hector's blood** (Ajax was Priam's nephew.)

15.88 **maiden** without bloodshed
 15.93 **breath** bout of exercise
 15.96 **heavy** sad
 15.100 **deedless in his tongue** not boastful
 15.102 **free** generous
 15.105 **impair** unworthy, unconsidered
 15.107 **subscribes** relents

To tender objects, but he in heat of action
 Is more vindicative than jealous love.
 110 They call him Troilus, and on him erect
 A second hope as fairly built as Hector.
 Thus says Aeneas, one that knows the youth
 Even to his inches, and with private soul
 Did in great Ilium thus translate him to me.

Alarum. [Hector and Ajax fight]

115 AGAMEMNON They are in action.
 NESTOR Now, Ajax, hold thine own!
 TROILUS Hector, thou sleep'st. Awake thee!
 AGAMEMNON His blows are well disposed. There, Ajax!

Trumpets cease

DIOMED *[to Hector and Ajax]* You must no more.
 AENEAS *[to Hector and Ajax]* Princes, enough, so please you.

120 AJAX I am not warm yet. Let us fight again.

DIOMED As Hector pleases.

HECTOR Why then, will I no more.

Thou art, great lord, my father's sister's son,
 A cousin-german to great Priam's seed.

The obligation of our blood forbids

125 A gory emulation 'twixt us twain.

Were thy commixtion Greek and Trojan so
 That thou couldst say, 'This hand is Grecian all,
 And this is Trojan, the sinews of this leg
 All Greek, and this all Troy, my mother's blood

130 Runs on the dexter cheek, and this sinister
 Bounds in my father's, by Jove multipotent,
 Thou shouldst not bear from me a Greekish member
 Wherein my sword had not impressure made
 Of our rank feud. But the just gods gainsay
 135 That any drop thou borrowd'st from thy mother,
 My sacred aunt, should by my mortal sword
 Be drained. Let me embrace thee, Ajax.
 By him that thunders, thou hast lusty arms.
 Hector would have them fall upon him thus.
 140 Cousin, all honour to thee.

AJAX I thank thee, Hector,
 Thou art too gentle and too free a man.
 I came to kill thee, cousin, and bear hence
 A great addition earned in thy death.

HECTOR Not Neoptolemus so mirable,
 145 On whose bright crest Fame with her loud'st 'Oyez's

15.114.1 *Alarum* Here a trumpet signal (offstage or on stage) announcing the combat. The trumpet continues to play as Hector and Achilles fight.

15.114.1 *Hector and Ajax fight* Scarcely a real contest, as Hector fights reluctantly and defensively.

15.118 His . . . Ajax! See note to 15.93.

15.118.1 *Trumpets cease* Alternatively, after Diomed's speech

15.109 *vindicative* vindictive

15.113 *Even to his inches* from top to toe; in utmost detail

15.113 *with private soul* in confidence

15.114 *translate* explain, describe

15.123 *cousin-german . . . seed* first cousin . . . offspring

15.125 *emulation* competition

15.126 *commixtion* blending

15.126 *so* such

15.130 *dexter . . . sinister* right . . . left (heraldic terms from Latin)

15.131 *multipotent* most powerful

15.133 *impressure* impression

15.138 *him that thunders* Jupiter

15.139 *thus* (in an embrace)

15.141 *free* noble

15.143 *addition* title, renown

15.144 *Neoptolemus* (Achilles' son Pyrrhus, but Shakespeare may have thought 'Neoptolemus' was Achilles' surname)

15.144 *mirable* wonderful

15.145 *crest* helmet

15.145 'Oyez's (town crier's call to attract attention: 'hear ye!')

Cries 'This is he', could promise to himself
A thought of added honour torn from Hector.

AENEAS There is expectance here from both the sides.
What further you will do?

HECTOR We'll answer it:

150 The issue is embracement. Ajax, farewell.

AJAX If I might in entreaties find success,
As seld I have the chance, I would desire
My famous cousin to our Grecian tents.

DIOMED 'Tis Agamemnon's wish, and great Achilles

155 Doth long to see unarmed the valiant Hector.

HECTOR Aeneas, call my brother Troilus to me,
And signify this loving interview
To the expecters of our Trojan part.
Desire them home. Give me thy hand, my cousin.

160 I will go eat with thee and see your knights.

Agamemnon and the rest [come forward]

AJAX Great Agamemnon comes to meet us here.

HECTOR *[to Aeneas]* The worthiest of them tell me name by name.

But for Achilles, mine own searching eyes
Shall find him by his large and portly size.

165 AGAMEMNON Worthy of arms, as welcome as to one
That would be rid of such an enemy.

But that's no welcome. Understand more clear,
What's past and what's to come is strewed with husks
And formless ruin of oblivion;

170 But in this extant moment faith and troth,
Strained purely from all hollow bias-drawing,
Bids thee, with most divine integrity,
From heart of very heart, great Hector, welcome.

HECTOR I thank thee, most imperious Agamemnon.

175 AGAMEMNON *[to Troilus]* My well-famed lord of Troy, no less to you.

MENELAUS Let me confirm my princely brother's greeting.
You brace of warlike brothers, welcome hither.

HECTOR *[to Aeneas]* Who must we answer?

AENEAS The noble Menelaus.

HECTOR *[to Menelaus]* O you, my lord! By Mars his gauntlet, thanks.

180 Mock not that I affect th'untraded oath.
Your quondam wife swears still by Venus' glove.
She's well, but bade me not commend her to you.

MENELAUS Name her not now, sir; she's a deadly theme.

HECTOR O pardon, I offend.

185 NESTOR I have, thou gallant Trojan, seen thee oft
Labouring for destiny, make cruel way

15.160.1 *come forward* The 1623 Folio text has them 'Enter'. This can be understood to mean that they come forward from their position as audience of the combat and then enter the combat area, but see note to 15.93.

15.162 *to Aeneas* This, and the exchange at 15.178, could be spoken aside.

15.150 *issue* conclusion

15.152 *seld* seldom

15.158 *expecters of our Trojan part* waiting Trojans

15.159 *home* to go home

15.164 *portly* stately, dignified

15.170 *extant* present

15.171 *hollow bias-drawing* insincere lack of directness

15.174 *imperious* imperial

15.177 *brace* pair

15.179 *Mars his* Mars'

15.180 *untraded* unfamiliar

15.181 *quondam* former

15.181 *Venus' glove* (contrasting with 'Mars his gauntlet', and alluding to Venus' adultery with Mars; possibly with an obscene innuendo)

15.186 *Labouring for destiny* doing the fates' work for them

Through ranks of Greekish youth; and I have seen thee,
 As hot as Perseus, spur thy Phrygian steed;
 And seen thee scorning forfeits and subduements,
 190 When thou hast hung thy advancèd sword i'th' air,
 Not letting it decline on the declined,
 That I have said unto my standers-by,
 'Lo, Jupiter is yonder, dealing life.'
 And I have seen thee pause and take thy breath
 195 When that a ring of Greeks have hemmed thee in,
 Like an Olympian wrestling. This have I seen.
 But this thy countenance, still locked in steel,
 I never saw till now. I knew thy grandsire,
 And once fought with him. He was a soldier good,
 200 But, by great Mars, the captain of us all,
 Never like thee. Let an old man embrace thee;
 And, worthy warrior, welcome to our tents.

AENEAS [*to Hector*] 'Tis the old Nestor.

HECTOR Let me embrace thee, good old chronicle,
 205 That hast so long walked hand in hand with time.
 Most reverend Nestor, I am glad to clasp thee.

[*He embraces Nestor*]

NESTOR I would my arms could match thee in contention
 As they contend with thee in courtesy.

HECTOR I would they could.

210 NESTOR Ha, by this white beard, I'd fight with thee tomorrow!
 Well, welcome, welcome! I have seen the time.

ULYSSES [*to Hector*] I wonder now how yonder city stands
 When we have here her base and pillar by us.

HECTOR I know your favour, Lord Ulysses, well.

215 Ah sir, there's many a Greek and Trojan dead
 Since first I saw yourself and Diomed
 In Ilium on your Greekish embassy.

ULYSSES Sir, I foretold you then what would ensue.
 My prophesy is but half his journey yet;
 220 For yonder walls that pertly front your town,
 Yond towers whose wanton tops do buss the clouds,
 Must kiss their own feet.

HECTOR I must not believe you.

There they stand yet, and modestly I think
 The fall of every Phrygian stone will cost

225 A drop of Grecian blood. The end crowns all,
 And that old common arbitrator Time
 Will one day end it.

ULYSSES So to him we leave it.

15.188 *Perseus* (who rode the winged horse Pegasus)
 15.189 *forfeits* those whose lives might have been forfeit
 15.189 *subduements* (possible) conquests
 15.190 *hung* kept high
 15.191 *decline . . . declined* fall . . . fallen
 15.193 *dealing* apportioning
 15.196 *Olympian* a god from Olympus; or athlete in Olympic games

15.197 *still* always
 15.198 *grandsire* (Laomedon, builder of Troy's walls)
 15.214 *favour* face
 15.221 *wanton* reckless, frivolous (but playing on 'amorous')
 15.221 *buss* kiss
 15.225 *The end crowns all* (proverbial)
 15.226 *common arbitrator* judge of all ('Time tries all things' was proverbial.)

- Most gentle and most valiant Hector, welcome.
 After the general, I beseech you next
 230 To feast with me and see me at my tent.
 ACHILLES I shall forestall thee, Lord Ulysses. [*To Hector*] Thou!
 Now, Hector, I have fed mine eyes on thee.
 I have with exact view perused thee, Hector,
 And quoted joint by joint.
 235 HECTOR Is this Achilles?
 ACHILLES I am Achilles.
 HECTOR Stand fair, I prithee; let me look on thee.
 ACHILLES Behold thy fill.
 HECTOR Nay, I have done already.
 ACHILLES Thou art too brief. I will the second time,
 240 As I would buy thee, view thee limb by limb.
 HECTOR O, like a book of sport thou'lt read me o'er!
 But there's more in me than thou understand'st.
 Why dost thou so oppress me with thine eye?
 ACHILLES Tell me, you heavens, in which part of his body
 245 Shall I destroy him? Whether there, or there, or there?—
 That I may give the local wound a name,
 And make distinct the very breach whereout
 Hector's great spirit flew. Answer me, heavens.
 HECTOR It would discredit the blest gods, proud man,
 250 To answer such a question. Stand again.
 Think'st thou to catch my life so pleasantly
 As to prenominate in nice conjecture
 Where thou wilt hit me dead?
 ACHILLES I tell thee, yea.
 HECTOR Wert thou the oracle to tell me so,
 255 I'd not believe thee. Henceforth guard thee well,
 For I'll not kill thee there, nor there, nor there,
 But, by the forge that stythied Mars his helm,
 I'll kill thee everywhere, yea, o'er and o'er.
 You wisest Grecians, pardon me this brag.
 260 His insolence draws folly from my lips,
 But I'll endeavour deeds to match these words,
 Or may I never—
 AJAX Do not chafe thee, cousin.—
 And you, Achilles, let these threats alone
 Till accident or purpose bring you to't.
 265 You may have every day enough of Hector
 If you have stomach. The general state, I fear,
 Can scarce entreat you to be odd with him.
 HECTOR [*to Achilles*] I pray you, let us see you in the field.
 We have had pelting wars since you refused

15.228 Most . . . welcome.
 Ulysses may embrace Hector.

15.248 Answer me, heavens
 Here or earlier Achilles
 appeals to the gods, probably
 by kneeling; hence Hector's
 'Stand again' (15.250).

15.231 **Thou!** (if not an exclamation addressed to Hector, a contemptuous idiom aimed at Ulysses)
 15.234 **quoted** taken note
 15.237 **fair** unobstructed, open to view
 15.241 **book of sport** hunting manual
 15.243 **oppress** dominate; trouble
 15.250 **Stand again** (probably 'stand fair again', but an onstage chair would suit Achilles' idleness)

15.251 **pleasantly** like a game
 15.252 **prenominate** name in advance
 15.252 **nice** precise
 15.257 **stythied** forged
 15.266 **stomach** appetite
 15.266 **general state** the Greek leaders
 15.267 **odd** at odds
 15.269 **pelting** paltry

270 The Grecians' cause.

ACHILLES Dost thou entreat me, Hector?
Tomorrow do I meet thee fell as death;
Tonight, all friends.

HECTOR Thy hand upon that match.

AGAMEMNON First, all you peers of Greece, go to my tent;
There in the full convive you. Afterwards,

275 As Hector's leisure and your bounties shall
Concur together, severally entreat him.
Beat loud the taborins, let the trumpets blow,
That this great soldier may his welcome know.

[*Flourish.*]

Exeunt [all but Troilus and Ulysses]

TROILUS My lord Ulysses, tell me, I beseech you,

280 In what place of the field doth Calchas keep?

ULYSSES At Menelaus' tent, most princely Troilus.

There Diomed doth feast with him tonight,
Who neither looks on heaven nor on earth,
But gives all gaze and bent of amorous view

285 On the fair Cressid.

TROILUS Shall I, sweet lord, be bound to thee so much,
After we part from Agamemnon's tent,
To bring me thither?

ULYSSES You shall command me, sir.
As gentle tell me, of what honour was

290 This Cressida in Troy? Had she no lover there
That wails her absence?

TROILUS O sir, to such as, boasting, show their scars
A mock is due. Will you walk on, my lord?
She was beloved, she loved—she is, and doth—

295 But still sweet love is food for fortune's tooth.

Exeunt

15.272 Thy . . . match.

Achilles probably accepts
Hector's offer to shake hands.

15.278.1 *Exeunt* . . . Ulysses

Troilus draws Ulysses aside as
the others are leaving.

15.294–5 She . . . tooth.

These lines might be spoken
aside as Ulysses leaves, or to
Ulysses.

Sc. 16

5.1 *Enter Achilles and Patroclus*

ACHILLES I'll heat his blood with Greekish wine tonight,
Which with my scimitar I'll cool tomorrow.
Patroclus, let us feast him to the height.

PATROCLUS Here comes Thersites.

Enter Thersites [with a letter]

ACHILLES How now, thou core of envy,
5 Thou crusty botch of nature? What's the news?

THERSITES Why, thou picture of what thou seem'st, and idol of idiot-
worshippers, here's a letter for thee.

ACHILLES From whence, fragment?

5.1 16.0 *Enter* . . . Patroclus

Part of Achilles' tent might be
visible.

15.271 **fell** terrible, cruel

15.274 **convive** feast together

15.276 **severally entreat** invite separately

15.277 **taborins** small drums

15.280 **keep** reside

15.284 **bent** inclination

15.289 **gentle** courteously

15.293 **A mock** i.e. mockery

5.1 16.2 **scimitar** (a Turkish, curved-edged sword)

16.2 **cool** (in death)

16.3 **height** utmost

16.4 **core** (of a boil)

16.5 **crusty** scab-encrusted; bitter, bad-tempered

16.5 **botch** boil

16.6 **picture** mere image, effigy

16.8 **fragment** scrap of leftover food

TERSITES Why, thou full dish of fool, from Troy.

[*Achilles reads the letter*]

10 PATROCLUS [*to Thersites*] Who keeps the tent now?

TERSITES The surgeon's box, or the patient's wound.

PATROCLUS Well said, adversity; and what need these tricks?

TERSITES Prithee be silent, boy. I profit not by thy talk. Thou art thought to be Achilles' male varlet.

15 PATROCLUS 'Male varlet', you rogue? What's that?

TERSITES Why, his masculine whore. Now the rotten diseases of the south, guts-griping, ruptures, catarrhs, loads o' gravel i'th' back, lethargies, cold palsies, and the like, take and take again such preposterous discoveries.

20 PATROCLUS Why, thou damnable box of envy thou, what mean'st thou to curse thus?

TERSITES Do I curse thee?

PATROCLUS Why, no, you ruinous butt, you whoreson indistinguishable cur, no.

25 TERSITES No? Why art thou then exasperate, thou idle, immaterial skein of sleeve-silk, thou green sarsenet flap for a sore eye, thou tassel of a prodigal's purse, thou—Ah, how the poor world is pestered with such water-flies, diminutives of nature!

PATROCLUS Out, gall!

30 TERSITES Finch egg!

ACHILLES My sweet Patroclus, I am thwarted quite

From my great purpose in tomorrow's battle.

Here is a letter from Queen Hecuba,

A token from her daughter, my fair love,

35 Both taxing me and gaging me to keep

An oath that I have sworn. I will not break it.

Fall Greeks, fail fame, honour or go or stay,

My major vow lies here; this I'll obey.

Come, come, Thersites, help to trim my tent.

40 This night in banqueting must all be spent.

Away, Patroclus.

Exit [Achilles with Patroclus]

16.9.1 *Achilles reads the letter* He stands apart, or exits into his tent.

16.9 fool (punning on the name of clotted cream or trifle dessert)

16.10 Who . . . now Achilles can no longer be taunted for staying in his tent.

16.10 tent (Thersites deliberately mistakes him as meaning 'surgeon's probe', or 'lint used to clean a wound'.)

16.12 adversity contrariety (because of his wordplay)

16.14 varlet personal servant (with possible sexual connotation)

16.16–18 the rotten . . . palsies (These may be separate diseases; but nearly all might be symptoms of venereal disease.)

16.17 south (perhaps rain-bearing south wind; perhaps southern Europe, particularly Naples, as origin venereal disease)

16.17 loads burdensome afflictions

16.17 gravel i'th' back stones in the kidneys

16.18 lethargies drowsiness, inertia; perhaps 'comas'

16.18 cold palsies paralysis

16.18 take strike, afflict

16.19 preposterous discoveries revealed perversions

16.20 envy malice

16.23 ruinous butt leaky tub

16.23 indistinguishable misshapen; mongrel; without distinct function

16.25 exasperate irritated, enraged

16.25 immaterial irrelevant, insubstantial

16.26 sleeve-silk silk thread separable into finer filaments, used in embroidery

16.26 green (implying 'immature')

16.26 sarsenet fine, soft silk fabric

16.26 flap patch

16.26 sore eye (a possible symptom of venereal disease)

16.28 water-flies tiny, ephemeral, often gaudy insects (Anglers' flies were made from silk; compare with 'sleave-silk', 16.26.)

16.30 Finch egg (small and brightly-coloured)

16.35 taxing reproving

16.35 gaging engaging, binding

16.37 Fall . . . fail . . . go . . . stay (The verbs are subjunctive: 'Whether the Greeks fall and . . .')

16.37 or . . . or either . . . or

16.39 trim tidy up, prepare

THERSITES With too much blood and too little brain these two may
 run mad; but if with too much brain and too little blood they do, I'll
 be a curer of madmen. Here's Agamemnon, an honest fellow enough,
 45 and one that loves quails; but he has not so much brain as ear-wax.
 And the goodly transformation of Jupiter there, his brother, the bull, the
 primitive statue and oblique memorial of cuckolds?—a thrifty shoeing-
 horn in a chain hanging at his brother's leg. To what form but that
 he is should wit larded with malice and malice farced with wit turn him
 50 to? To an ass were nothing; he is both ass and ox. To an ox were
 nothing; he is both ox and ass. To be a dog, a mule, a cat, a fitchew,
 a toad, a lizard, an owl, a puttock, or a herring without a roe, I
 would not care; but to be Menelaus!—I would conspire against destiny.
 Ask me not what I would be if I were not Thersites, for I care not to be
 55 the louse of a lazard so I were not Menelaus.—Hey-day, spirits and fires!

Enter Hector, Ajax, Agamemnon, [Menelaus,] Ulysses, Nestor, Diomed, with lights; [Troilus]

AGAMEMNON We go wrong, we go wrong.

AJAX No, yonder 'tis,

There where we see the light.

HECTOR I trouble you.

AJAX No, not a whit.

Enter Achilles

ULYSSES Here comes himself to guide you.

ACHILLES Welcome, brave Hector. Welcome, princes all.

60 AGAMEMNON [*to Hector*] So now, fair prince of Troy, I bid good night.

Ajax commands the guard to tend on you.

HECTOR Thanks and good night to the Greeks' general.

MENELAUS Good night, my lord.

HECTOR Good night, sweet Lord Menelaus.

65 THERSITES [*aside*] Sweet draught! 'Sweet', quoth 'a? Sweet sink, sweet sewer.

ACHILLES Good night and welcome both at once to those that go or tarry.

AGAMEMNON Good night. [*Exeunt Agamemnon and Menelaus*]

ACHILLES Old Nestor tarries; and you too, Diomed,

70 Keep Hector company an hour or two.

DIOMED I cannot, lord. I have important business,
 The tide whereof is now.—Good night, great Hector.

16.55.1–16.76.1 *Enter . . .*

Thersites Agamemnon and Menelaus, as hosts, are accompanying Hector and the other Greeks after feasting at Menelaus' tent. It is night-time; hence the 'lights', which are burning torches. The group may be tipsy, and enter as half-lost. Once Agamemnon and Menelaus have delivered their guests to Achilles, they return. Hector and Ajax go with Achilles into his tent for another hour or two of socialization. Diomed bows out on account of his 'important business' (16.71), and leaves for Calchas' tent, with Ulysses and Troilus following him. Thersites stands apart, observing throughout.

16.55.2 *Troilus* Troilus may have joined the party so that Ulysses can lead him to Calchas' tent. More likely, he enters separately, keeping out of sight of all but Ulysses.

16.42 **blood** passion, will

16.44 **curer of madmen** (A paradox: a fool curing a madman. Madmen were often beaten and chained; Thersites normally receives, rather than dispenses, such treatment.)

16.44 **Here's** 'Take for an example'

16.44 **honest fellow** truthful chap; 'man of the world'

16.45 **quails** (The birds, as a delicacy; prostitutes. Thersites assumes that loving quails is a regular trait in a man.)

16.46 **transformation of Jupiter** (Jupiter made himself into a bull to rape Europa; Agamemnon's brother Menelaus has the horns of a cuckold.)

16.47 **primitive** archetypal

16.47 **oblique** Slantingly relevant. Jove as bull was neither cuckold nor cuckold-maker.

16.47 **thrifty** proper, handy

16.47–8 **shoeing-horn** (still alluding to the cuckold's horn, but now reducing the bull as statue to the bull's horn as source for a demeaning everyday and literally low object)

16.48 **that** the one that

16.49 **farced** stuffed

16.51 **fitchew** polecat (proverbially lecherous and stinking)

16.52 **puttock** kite (a bird of prey)

16.52 **herring without a roe** herring that has spawned, spent fish

16.54 **care not to be** would not care if I were

16.55 **lazar** leper

16.55 **spirits and fires** (Thersites imagines the Greeks with approaching torches to be light-bearing spirits.)

16.58 **himself** the very man

16.64 **draught** drink (which the guests may still be carrying); team of beasts used for pulling wagons, etc.; cesspool, privy

16.64 **sink** cesspit

16.72 **tide** high tide, appointed time

HECTOR Give me your hand.

ULYSSES [*aside to Troilus*] Follow his torch; he goes to Calchas' tent.

75 I'll keep you company.

TROILUS Sweet sir, you honour me.

HECTOR [*to Diomed*] And so good night.

[*Exeunt Diomed, followed by Troilus and Ulysses*]

ACHILLES Come, come, enter my tent.

[*Exeunt [all but Thersites]*]

THERSITES That same Diomed's a false-hearted rogue, a most unjust knave. I will no more trust him when he leers than I will a serpent when he hisses. He will spend his mouth and promise like Brabblers the hound; but when he performs astronomers foretell it: that it is prodigious, there will come some change. The sun borrows of the moon when Diomed keeps his word. I will rather leave to see Hector than not to dog him. They say he keeps a Trojan drab, and uses the traitor Calchas his tent. I'll after. Nothing but lechery! All
85 incontinent varlets.

Exit

Sc. 17

5.2 *Enter Diomed*

DIOMED What, are you up here, ho? Speak!

CALCHAS [*within*] Who calls?

DIOMED Diomed. Calchas, I think. Where's your daughter?

CALCHAS [*within*] She comes to you.

Enter Troilus and Ulysses, [at a distance]

5 ULYSSES Stand where the torch may not discover us.

Enter Cressid

TROILUS Cressid comes forth to him.

DIOMED [*to Cressid*] How now, my charge?

CRESSID Now, my sweet guardian. Hark, a word with you.

[*Enter Thersites, at a distance*]

TROILUS [*to Ulysses*] Yea, so familiar?

ULYSSES [*aside*] She will sing any man at first sight.

10 THERSITES [*aside*] And any man may sing her if he can take her clef; she's noted.

DIOMED [*to Cressid*] Will you remember?

CRESSID Remember? Yes.

DIOMED Nay, but do then; and let your mind be coupled with your
15 words.

TROILUS [*to Ulysses*] What should she remember?

ULYSSES List!

CRESSID [*to Diomed*] Sweet honey Greek, tempt me no more to folly.

THERSITES [*aside*] Roguery!

16.85 *Exit* He follows Diomed, Troilus, and Ulysses. Alternatively he might remain on stage but duck out of Diomed's sight.

5.2 17.0 *Enter Diomed* The scene, set outside Calchas' tent, shows the sexual manoeuvring of Diomed and Cressid, watched by Troilus and Ulysses, the whole observed by Thersites. Diomed and Cressid are unaware of Troilus and Ulysses; no one is aware of Thersites.

17.7 **Hark, a word with you** She whispers to Diomed, or they talk close together out of hearing.

17.8 *to Ulysses* Troilus' remonstrations here and after may be spoken to Ulysses, or may be uttered as private thoughts to himself but overheard by Ulysses.

17.9 *aside* or spoken to Troilus

16.78 **leers** smiles (not pejorative)

16.79 **spend his mouth** bark in full cry (as of hounds when they follow the scent)

16.79 **Brabblers the hound** generic term for a dog that barks noisily

16.80 **that** (Diomed's keeping his word)

16.81 **prodigious** portentous, ominous

16.81 **change** (often used of massive political upheavals, of a kind often related to eclipses or other unusual natural phenomena)

16.81–2 **sun borrows of the moon** (It was well known that, conversely, the moon's light was a reflection of the sun's.)

16.82 **leave to see** stop seeing

16.83 **him** Diomed

16.83 **drab** whore

16.85 **incontinent** promiscuous

5.2 17.9 **sing . . . at first sight** (as in sight reading of music)

17.10 **clef** musical key; *cleft*, vulva

17.11 **noted** like music written down; notorious

17.18 **folly** promiscuity

- 20 DIOMED Nay, then!
 CRESSID I'll tell you what.
 DIOMED Fo, fo, come, tell a pin! You are a forsworn—
 CRESSID In faith, I cannot. What would you have me do?
 THERSITES *[aside]* A juggling trick: to be secretly open.
- 25 DIOMED What did you swear you would bestow on me?
 CRESSID I prithee, do not hold me to mine oath.
 Bid me do but anything but that, sweet Greek.
 DIOMED Good night.
 TROILUS *[aside]* Hold, patience!
 ULYSSES How now, Trojan?
 CRESSID Diomed.
 DIOMED No, no, good night. I'll be your fool no more.
- 30 TROILUS *[aside]* Thy better must.
 CRESSID *[to Diomed]* Hark one word in your ear.
 TROILUS *[aside]* O plague and madness!
 ULYSSES You are moved, prince. Let us depart, I pray you,
 Lest your displeasure should enlarge itself
 To wrathful terms. This place is dangerous,
 The time right deadly. I beseech you, go.
- 35 TROILUS Behold, I pray you.
 ULYSSES Nay, good my lord, go off.
 You flow to great distraction. Come, my lord.
 TROILUS I pray thee, stay.
 ULYSSES You have not patience. Come.
- 40 TROILUS I pray you, stay. By hell and hell torments,
 I will not speak a word.
 DIOMED *[to Cressid]* And so good night.
 CRESSID Nay, but you part in anger.
 TROILUS *[aside]* Doth that grieve thee?
 O withered truth!
 ULYSSES Why, how now, lord?
 TROILUS By Jove, I will be patient.
[Diomed starts to leave]
- 45 CRESSID *[to Diomed]* Guardian, why, Greek!
 DIOMED Fo, fo, adieu; you palter.
 CRESSID In faith, I do not. Come hither once again.
 ULYSSES *[to Troilus]* You shake, my lord, at something. Will you go?
 You will break out.
 TROILUS She strokes his cheek.
 ULYSSES Come, come.
 TROILUS Nay, stay. By Jove, I will not speak a word.
- 50 There is between my will and all offences
 A guard of patience. Stay a little while.
 THERSITES *[aside]* How the devil Luxury, with his fat rump and potato
 finger, tickles these together! Fry, lechery, fry!
 DIOMED *[to Cressid]* But will you then?

17.22 **tell a pin** tell me nothing (a pin being of little value)17.22 **You are a forsworn** (Cressid's promise to Diomed has already broken her promise to Troilus.)17.23 **cannot** cannot do what I promised17.24 **juggling** (often used of sexual dexterity)17.24 **open** public; available for sexual intercourse17.38 **flow** rise (like a flooding river)17.45 **palter** prevaricate17.52 **Luxury** lust17.52 **potato** (thought to be aphrodisiac)17.53 **Fry** (in the fire of lust, and of hell)

- 55 CRESSID In faith, I will, la. Never trust me else.
 DIOMED Give me some token for the surety of it.
 CRESSID I'll fetch you one. *Exit*
 ULYSSES *[to Troilus]* You have sworn patience.
 TROILUS Fear me not, sweet lord.
- 60 I will not be myself, nor have cognition
 Of what I feel. I am all patience.
Enter Cressid [with Troilus' sleeve]
 THERSITES *[aside]* Now the pledge! Now, now, now!
 CRESSID Here, Diomed. Keep this sleeve.
[She gives Diomed the sleeve]
 TROILUS *[aside]* O beauty, where is thy faith?
 ULYSSES My lord.
- 65 TROILUS I will be patient; outwardly I will.
 CRESSID *[to Diomed]* You look upon that sleeve? Behold it well.
 He loved me—O false wench!—Give't me again.
 DIOMED Whose was't?
[She takes back the sleeve]
 CRESSID It is no matter, now I have't again.
- 70 I will not meet with you tomorrow night.
 I prithee, Diomed, visit me no more.
 THERSITES *[aside]* Now she sharpens. Well said, whetstone.
 DIOMED *[to Cressid]* I shall have it.
 CRESSID What, this?
 DIOMED Ay, that.
- 75 CRESSID O all you gods! O pretty, pretty pledge,
 Thy master now lies thinking in his bed
 Of thee and me, and sighs, and takes my glove,
 And gives memorial dainty kisses to it,
 As I kiss thee.
[Diomed takes the sleeve. Cressid tries to snatch it back]
- DIOMED Nay, do not snatch it from me.
 CRESSID He that takes that takes my heart withal.
- 80 DIOMED I had your heart before; this follows it.
 TROILUS *[aside]* I did swear patience.
 CRESSID You shall not have it, Diomed; faith, you shall not.
 I'll give you something else.
 DIOMED I will have this. Whose was it?
 CRESSID It is no matter.
 DIOMED Come, tell me whose it was.
- 85 CRESSID 'Twas one that loved me better than you will.
 But now you have it, take it.
 DIOMED Whose was it?
 CRESSID By all Diana's waiting-women yond,
 And by herself, I will not tell you whose.
 DIOMED Tomorrow will I wear it on my helm,
 90 And grieve his spirit that dares not challenge it.

17.72 **sharpens** becomes harsh; whets his desire
 17.72 **whetstone** (the proverbial prize for extravagant lying)
 17.77 **memorial** remembering

17.78 **Diomed . . . back**
 Alternatively, Diomed
 snatches the sleeve and it is
 Cressid who protests 'Nay, do
 not snatch it from me'.
 17.87 **Diana's waiting-women** the stars (Diana being goddess of
 chastity)
 17.90 **grieve** afflict

- TROILUS *[aside]* Wert thou the devil and wor'st it on thy horn,
It should be challenged.
- CRESSID Well, well, 'tis done, 'tis past. And yet it is not.
I will not keep my word.
- DIOMED Why then, farewell.
- 95 Thou never shalt mock Diomed again.
- CRESSID You shall not go. One cannot speak a word
But it straight starts you.
- DIOMED I do not like this fooling.
- TROILUS *[aside]* Nor I, by Pluto—but that that likes not you
Pleases me best.
- DIOMED What, shall I come? The hour?
- 100 CRESSID Ay, come.—O Jove!—Do, come.—I shall be plagued.
- DIOMED Farewell till then. *Exit*
- CRESSID Good night. I prithee, come.—
[Speaking alone] Troilus, farewell. One eye yet looks on thee,
But with my heart the other eye doth see.
Ah, poor our sex! This fault in us I find:
The error of our eye directs our mind.
105 What error leads must err. O then conclude:
Minds swayed by eyes are full of turpitude. *Exit*
- THERSITES *[aside]* A proof of strength she could not publish more,
Unless she say, 'My mind is now turned whore.'
- 110 ULYSSES *[to Troilus]* All's done, my lord.
- TROILUS It is.
- ULYSSES Why stay we then?
- TROILUS To make a recordation to my soul
Of every syllable that here was spoke.
But if I tell how these two did co-act,
Shall I not lie in publishing a truth?—
115 Sith yet there is a credence in my heart,
An esperance so obstinately strong
That doth invert th'attest of eyes and ears;
As if those organs had deceptious functions
Created only to calumniate.
- 120 Was Cressid here?
- ULYSSES I cannot conjure, Trojan.
- TROILUS She was not, sure.
- ULYSSES Most sure, she was.
- TROILUS Why, my negation hath no taste of madness.
- ULYSSES Nor mine, my lord. Cressid was here but now.
- TROILUS Let it not be believed, for womanhood.
- 125 Think we had mothers. Do not give advantage

17.98 TROILUS The original texts assign the speech to Thersites: implausible but not impossible.

17.97 **straight starts you** makes you immediately flinch

17.98 **likes** pleases

17.100 **plagued** vexed, teased (but alluding to her eventual fate, as a leper)

17.104 **poor our** our poor

17.105 **error** wandering; falsehood

17.108 **proof of strength** strong proof

17.108 **publish more** make known more clearly

17.111 **recordation** commemorative account

17.116 **esperance** hope

17.117 **invert** overthrow, reverse

17.117 **attest** testimony

17.118 **deceptions** deceptive

17.120 **conjure** raise a spirit in Cressid's likeness

17.122 **negation** denial

17.124 **for** for the sake of

17.125 **Think** consider that

- To stubborn critics, apt, without a theme
 For depravation, to square the general sex
 By Cressid's rule. Rather, think this not Cressid.
- 130 ULYSSES What hath she done, prince, that can soil our mothers?
 TROILUS Nothing at all, unless that this were she.
 THERSITES *[aside]* Will he swagger himself out on's own eyes?
 TROILUS This she? No, this is Diomed's Cressida.
 If beauty have a soul, this is not she.
 If souls guide vows, if vows are sanctimony,
 135 If sanctimony be the gods' delight,
 If there be rule in unity itself,
 This is not she. O madness of discourse,
 That cause sets up with and against thyself!
 Bifold authority, where reason can revolt
 140 Without perdition, and loss assume all reason
 Without revolt! This is, and is not, Cressid.
 Within my soul there doth conduce a fight
 Of this strange nature: that a thing inseparate
 Divides more wider than the sky and earth;
 145 And yet the spacious breadth of this division
 Admits no orifex for a point as subtle
 As Ariachne's broken woof to enter.
 Instance, O instance strong as Pluto's gates:
 Cressid is mine, tied with the bonds of heaven.
 150 Instance, O instance, strong as heaven itself:
 The bonds of heaven are slipped, dissolved, and loosed;
 And with another knot, five-finger tied,
 The fractions of her faith, orts of her love,
 The fragments, scraps, the bits, and greasy relics
 155 Of her o'er-eaten faith, are bound to Diomed.
- ULYSSES May worthy Troilus be half attached
 With that which here his passion doth express?
 TROILUS Ay, Greek; and that shall be divulgèd well
 In characters as red as Mars his heart
 160 Inflamed with Venus. Never did young man fancy
 With so eternal and so fixed a soul.
 Hark, Greek: as much as I do Cressid love,
 So much by weight hate I her Diomed.

17.126–7 **a theme** | For **depravation** specific grounds for vilification
 17.127–8 **square** . . . **rule** measure all women by the standard of Cressid
 17.131 **swagger** bully, bluster
 17.131 **on's** of (the evidence of) his
 17.134 **sanctimony** a sacred thing
 17.135 **sanctimony** sanctity
 17.136 **there** . . . **itself** unity is indivisible
 17.137 **discourse** logical argument, reason
 17.138 **cause** case, plea (where, here, defendant and plaintiff are one)
 17.139 **Bifold** divided (or double)
 17.139–40 **revolt** | **Without perdition** confute itself without destroying itself
 17.140 **loss** (of reason)
 17.142 **conduce** conduct itself

17.143 **inseparate** undivided
 17.146 **orifex** orifice
 17.146 **subtle** fine
 17.147 **Ariachne** (This name conflates Arachne (the weaver Pallas turned into a spider for overweening pride in her work) and Ariadne (who gave Theseus a ball of thread to mark his way out of the labyrinth).)
 17.147 **woof** weaving thread (of Arachne, *broken* by Pallas)
 17.148 **Instance** case in point
 17.152 **five-finger-tied** (alluding to the Devil's five fingers, symbolizing the steps to lechery, and meaning 'evilly consummated')
 17.153 **fractions** . . . **orts** broken scraps of food
 17.156–7 **attached** | **With** seized by, affected by
 17.159 **red** (used for special emphasis in printing)
 17.159 **Mars his** Mars'
 17.160 **fancy** love

- That sleeve is mine that he'll bear in his helm.
 165 Were it a casque composed by Vulcan's skill,
 My sword should bite it. Not the dreadful spout
 Which shipmen do the hurricano call,
 Constringed in mass by the almighty sun,
 Shall dizzy with more clamour Neptune's ear
 170 In his descent than shall my prompted sword,
 Falling on Diomed.
 THERSITES [*aside*] He'll tickle it for his concupy.
 TROILUS O Cressid! O false Cressid! False, false, false!
 Let all untruths stand by thy stained name,
 175 And they'll seem glorious.
 ULYSSES O, contain yourself!
 Your passion draws ears hither.
Enter Aeneas
 AENEAS [*to Troilus*] I have been seeking you this hour, my lord.
 Hector by this is arming him in Troy.
 Ajax your guard stays to conduct you home.
 180 TROILUS Have with you, prince. [*To Ulysses*] My courteous lord, adieu.—
 Farewell, revolted fair. And Diomed,
 Stand fast, and wear a castle on thy head.
 ULYSSES I'll bring you to the gates.
 TROILUS Accept distracted thanks.
Exeunt Troilus, Aeneas, and Ulysses
 THERSITES Would I could meet that rogue Diomed! I would croak like
 185 a raven; I would bode, I would bode. Patroclus will give me anything
 for the intelligence of this whore. The parrot will not do more for an
 almond than he for a commodious drab. Lechery, lechery, still wars
 and lechery! Nothing else holds fashion. A burning devil take them!
 [*Exit*]

Sc. 18

- 5.3 *Enter Hector [armed], and Andromache*
 ANDROMACHE When was my lord so much ungently tempered
 To stop his ears against admonishment?
 Unarm, unarm, and do not fight today.
 5 HECTOR You train me to offend you. Get you gone.
 By the everlasting gods, I'll go.
 ANDROMACHE My dreams will sure prove ominous to the day.
 HECTOR No more, I say.
Enter Cassandra
 CASSANDRA Where is my brother Hector?

17.165 **casque** helmet
 17.165 **Vulcan** (the god who made armour for classical heroes, notably Achilles)
 17.166 **dreadful spout** terrifying waterspout
 17.167 **hurricano** waterspout
 17.168 **Constringed** drawn together, constricted
 17.169 **dizzy** confuse, stun
 17.170 **prompted** ready and eager
 17.172 **tickle it** (ironically, of Troilus beating on Diomed's helmet)
 17.172 **concupy** concupiscence; concubine

17.174 **stand by** be compared with
 17.180 **Have** I shall come
 17.185 **raven** (proverbially birds of ill omen)
 17.185 **bode** foretell evil
 17.186 **intelligence of** (secret) information about
 17.186–7 **parrot . . . almond** (proverbial for a brainless passion for a trivial delicacy)
 17.187 **commodious drab** accommodating slut
 5.3 18.4 **train** induce, teach
 18.6 **ominous to the day** true omens of the day's battle.

ANDROMACHE Here, sister, armed, and bloody in intent.

Consort with me in loud and dear petition;

10 Pursue we him on knees; for I have dreamed

Of bloody turbulence, and this whole night

Hath nothing been but shapes and forms of slaughter.

CASSANDRA O, 'tis true!

HECTOR Ho, bid my trumpet sound!

CASSANDRA No notes of sally, for the heavens, sweet brother.

15 HECTOR Be gone, I say. The gods have heard me swear.

CASSANDRA The gods are deaf to hot and peevish vows.

They are polluted off'rings, more abhorred

Than spotted livers in the sacrifice.

ANDROMACHE [*to Hector*] O be persuaded! Do not count it holy

20 To hurt by being just. It is as lawful,

For we would give much, to use violent thefts

And rob in the behalf of charity.

CASSANDRA [*to Hector*] It is the purpose that makes strong the vow;

But vows to every purpose must not hold.

25 Unarm, sweet Hector.

HECTOR Hold you still, I say.

Mine honour keeps the weather of my fate.

Life every man holds dear, but the dear man

Holds honour far more precious-dear than life.

Enter Troilus [armed]

How now, young man? Mean'st thou to fight today?

30 ANDROMACHE Cassandra, call my father to persuade. *Exit Cassandra*

HECTOR No, faith, young Troilus; doff thy harness, youth.

I am today i'th' vein of chivalry.

Let grow thy sinews till their knots be strong,

And tempt not yet the brushes of the war.

35 Unarm thee, go; and doubt thou not, brave boy,

I'll stand today for thee, and me, and Troy.

TROILUS Brother, you have a vice of mercy in you

Which better fits a lion than a man.

HECTOR What vice is that? Good Troilus, chide me for it.

40 TROILUS When many times the captive Grecian falls,

Even in the fan and wind of your fair sword

You bid them rise, and live.

HECTOR O, 'tis fair play.

TROILUS Fools' play, by heaven, Hector.

45 HECTOR How now? How now?

TROILUS For th' love of all the gods,

Let's leave the hermit pity with our mother;

And, when we have our armours buckled on,

5.3 18.30 Cassandra . . .
persuade. Perhaps spoken
aside to her.

18.9 Consort join

18.9 dear earnest

18.16 peevish headstrong

18.21 For we would because we desire to

18.21 use engage in, practice

18.24 must do not have to

18.25 hold you still stop trying to disarm me

18.26 keeps the weather stays to windward (In sailing, a ship
windward of another takes its wind, and so gets the better of it.)

18.27 dear man worthy man

18.30 father father-in-law

18.31 doff thy harness take off your armour

18.32 vein of mood for

18.33 knots bulges

18.34 brushes encounters, skirmishes

18.38 lion (said not to attack something lying still)

18.40 captive caitiff, wretched

18.41 fan and wind fanned air (as the sword passes close)

The venom'd vengeance ride upon our swords,
 50 Spur them to ruthful work, rein them from ruth.
 HECTOR Fie, savage, fie!
 TROILUS Hector, then 'tis wars.
 HECTOR Troilus, I would not have you fight today.
 TROILUS Who should withhold me?
 Not fate, obedience, nor the hand of Mars
 55 Beck'ning with fiery truncheon my retire,
 Not Priamus and Hecuba on knees,
 Their eyes o'ergallèd with recourse of tears,
 Nor you, my brother, with your true sword drawn
 Opposed to hinder me, should stop my way,
 60 But by my ruin.

Enter Priam and Cassandra

CASSANDRA Lay hold upon him, Priam, hold him fast.
 He is thy crutch. Now if thou lose thy stay,
 Thou on him leaning, and all Troy on thee,
 Fall all together.

PRIAM Come, Hector, come, go back.
 65 Thy wife hath dreamt, thy mother hath had visions,
 Cassandra doth foresee, and I myself
 Am like a prophet suddenly enrapt
 To tell thee that this day is ominous.
 Therefore come back.

HECTOR Aeneas is afield,
 70 And I do stand engaged to many Greeks,
 Even in the faith of valour, to appear
 This morning to them.

PRIAM Ay, but thou shalt not go.

HECTOR I must not break my faith.
 75 You know me dutiful; therefore, dear sir,
 Let me not shame respect, but give me leave
 To take that course by your consent and voice
 Which you do here forbid me, royal Priam.

CASSANDRA O Priam, yield not to him.

ANDROMACHE Do not, dear father.

80 HECTOR Andromache, I am offended with you.
 Upon the love you bear me, get you in. *Exit Andromache*

TROILUS This foolish-dreaming, superstitious girl
 Makes all these bodements.

CASSANDRA O farewell, dear Hector.
 Look how thou diest. Look how thy eye turns pale.
 85 Look how thy wounds doth bleed at many vents.
 Hark how Troy roars, how Hecuba cries out,
 How poor Andromach shrills her dolour forth.
 Behold distraction, frenzy, and amazement,

18.75-8 You . . . Priam.
 Hector might kneel before
 Priam.

18.50 **ruthful** piteous, rueful

18.50 **ruth** pity

18.51 **wars** true wars

18.55 **truncheon** military baton of office

18.57 **o'ergallèd** inflamed

18.57 **recourse** repeated flowing

18.62 **stay** prop, support

18.67 **enrapt** inspired

18.71 **faith of valour** a warrior's word of honour

18.76 **respect** obedience due to a parent

18.88 **distraction** perturbation, frenzy

18.88 **amazement** apprehension, fear

Like witless antics, one another meet,
 90 And all cry, 'Hector! Hector's dead! O Hector!'
 TROILUS Away, away!
 CASSANDRA Farewell. Yet soft: Hector, I take my leave.
 Thou dost thyself and all our Troy deceive. *Exit*
 HECTOR *[to Priam]* You are amazed, my liege, at her exclaim.
 95 Go in and cheer the town. We'll forth and fight,
 Do deeds of praise, and tell you them at night.
 PRIAM Farewell. The gods with safety stand about thee!
[Exeunt Hector and Priam severally.] Alarum
 TROILUS They are at it; hark! Proud Diomed, believe
 I come to lose my arm or win my sleeve.

Enter Pandarus

100 PANDARUS Do you hear, my lord? Do you hear?
 TROILUS What now?
 PANDARUS Here's a letter come from yond poor girl.
 TROILUS Let me read.
[Troilus reads the letter]
 PANDARUS A whoreson phthisic, a whoreson rascally phthisic so
 105 troubles me, and the foolish fortune of this girl, and what one thing,
 what another, that I shall leave you one o'th'se days. And I have a
 rheum in mine eyes too, and such an ache in my bones that unless a
 man were cursed I cannot tell what to think on't. What says she there?
 TROILUS Words, words, mere words. No matter from the heart;
 110 Th'effect doth operate another way.

[He tears up the letter]

Go, wind, to wind. There turn and change together.
 My love with words and errors still she feeds,
 But edifies another with her deeds.

DELETION

D1 PANDARUS Why, but hear you!
 D2 TROILUS Hence, broker-lackey! Ignomy and shame
 D3 Pursue thy life, and live aye with thy name.

Exeunt [severally]

18.D1-D3 PANDARUS . . .

name. These lines were probably intended to be transferred to 27.32-4, where they lead in to Pandarus' final speech. In performance, it would be possible to omit the final passage and instate the lines here.

Sc. 19

5.4 *Alarum. Enter Thersites in excursion*

THERSITES Now they are clapper-clawing one another. I'll go look on.
 That dissembling, abominable varlet Diomed has got that same scurvy,
 doting, foolish young knave's sleeve of Troy there in his helm. I would
 fain see them meet, that that same young Trojan ass that loves the
 5 whore there might send that Greekish whoremasterly villain with

5.4 19.0 in excursion

Thersites might enter either amidst sallies of soldiers on the attack, or separately while the soldiers attack on another part of the stage. Either way, the soldiers cross the stage and leave by another door. Thersites is left alone, looking across to the offstage battle.

18.89 **antics** buffoons
 18.94 **exclaim** outcry, exclaiming
 18.104 **phthisic** cough (properly 'consumption')
 18.107 **rheum** watery discharge (from any of several illnesses)
 18.109 **matter** substance, meaning
 18.110 **effect** performance (her deeds, which contradict her words)
 18.111 **wind . . . wind** empty breath . . . the open air
 18.111 **turn** (often used of sexual infidelity)

18.112 **errors** deviations from truth
 18.112 **she feeds** feeds herself
 18.113 **edifies** strengthens, supports (but ironically suggesting 'enlightens spiritually', in contrast to *errors*)
 18.113.D1-D3 **Why . . . name** These lines are not in the 1609 text.
 5.4 19.1 **clapper-clawing** banging and scratching
 19.3 **knave's sleeve of Troy** Trojan knave's sleeve

the sleeve back to the dissembling luxurious drab of a sleeveless errand. O'th' tother side, the policy of those crafty-swearng rascals, that stale old mouse-eaten dry cheese Nestor and that same dog-fox Ulysses, is not proved worth a blackberry. They set me up in policy
10 that mongrel cur Ajax against that dog of as bad a kind Achilles. And now is the cur Ajax prouder than the cur Achilles, and will not arm today; whereupon the Grecians began to proclaim barbarism, and policy grows into an ill opinion.

Enter Diomed [wearing the sleeve], and Troilus [in pursuit]

Soft, here comes Sleeve, and th'other.
15 TROILUS *[to Diomed]* Fly not; for shouldst thou take the river Styx, I would swim after.

DIOMED Thou dost miscall retire.
I do not fly, but advantageous care
Withdrew me from the odds of multitude.
Have at thee!

[They fight]

20 THERSITES *[aside]* Hold thy whore, Grecian! Now for thy whore, Trojan! Now the sleeve, now the sleeve!

[Exeunt Troilus and Diomed, fighting]

19.21.1 *Exeunt . . . fighting*
Diomed may have the upper hand.

Enter Hector

HECTOR What art thou, Greek? Art thou for Hector's match?
Art thou of blood and honour?

THERSITES No, no; I am a rascal, a scurvy railing knave, a very filthy
25 rogue.

HECTOR I do believe thee. Live. *[Exit]*

THERSITES God-a-mercy that thou wilt believe me! But a plague break thy neck for frightening me! What's become of the wenching rogues? I think they have swallowed one another. I would laugh at that miracle.—
30 Yet, in a sort, lechery eats itself. I'll seek them. *Exit*

Sc. 20

5.5 *Enter Diomed and Servants*

5.5 20.0 *Servants* Or perhaps only one servant appears here.

DIOMED Go, go, my servant; take thou Troilus' horse;
Present the fair steed to my Lady Cressid.
Fellow, commend my service to her beauty.
Tell her I have chastised the amorous Trojan,
5 And am her knight by proof.

SERVANT I go, my lord. *[Exit]*

Enter Agamemnon

AGAMEMNON Renew, renew! The fierce Polydamas
Hath beat down Menon. Bastard Margarelon

19.6 **luxurious drab** lecherous slut
19.6–7 **of a sleeveless | errand** on a fool's errand (*sleeveless* = 'futile', punning on the actual sleeve)
19.7 **policy** politics, scheming
19.8 **dry** (often used to describe age: sapless)
19.8 **cheese** (crumbly, smelly, and sallow-complexioned)
19.9 **blackberry** (proverbially worthless)
19.9 **set me up in policy** craftily set up
19.13 **grows into an ill opinion** develops a bad reputation

19.15 **take** enter (by way of escape from hunters, especially to make them lose the scent)
19.16 **miscall retire** misidentify what is a (tactical) retreat
19.17 **advantageous care** care to gain better opportunity
19.18 **the odds of multitude** the risk of being greatly outnumbered
19.23 **blood** noble family
19.27 **God-a-mercy** thank God
19.30 **eats itself** (by destroying desire through reaching orgasm, or consuming the lecher)
5.5 20.5 **by proof** (deeds as well as words)

Hath Doreus prisoner,
 And stands colossus-wise, waving his beam,
 10 Upon the pashèd corpses of the kings
 Epistropus and Cedius. Polixenes is slain,
 Amphimachus and Thoas deadly hurt,
 Patroclus ta'en or slain, and Palamedes
 Sore hurt and bruised. The dreadful sagittary
 15 Appals our numbers. Haste we, Diomed,
 To reinforcement, or we perish all.

Enter Nestor

NESTOR Go bear Patroclus' body to Achilles,
 And bid the snail-paced Ajax arm for shame.
 There is a thousand Hectors in the field.
 20 Now here he fights on Galathea his horse,
 And there lacks work. Anon he's there afoot,
 And there they fly or die, like scalèd schools
 Before the belching whale. Then is he yonder,
 And there the strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
 25 Fall down before him like the mower's swath.
 Here, there, and everywhere he leaves and takes,
 Dexterity so obeying appetite
 That what he will he does, and does so much
 That proof is called impossibility.

Enter Ulysses

30 ULYSSES O courage, courage, princes! Great Achilles
 Is arming, weeping, cursing, vowing vengeance.
 Patroclus' wounds have roused his drowsy blood,
 Together with his mangled Myrmidons,
 That noseless, handless, hacked and chipped, come to him,
 35 Crying on Hector. Ajax hath lost a friend,
 And foams at mouth, and he is armed and at it,
 Roaring for Troilus—who hath done today
 Mad and fantastic execution,
 Engaging and redeeming of himself
 40 With such a careless force and forceless care
 As if that luck, in very spite of cunning, bade him win all.

Enter Ajax

AJAX Troilus, thou coward Troilus!

DIOMED Ay, there, there.

NESTOR So, so, we draw together.

Exit

[Exit]

Exit [with Ulysses]

20.16.1 *Enter Nestor*

Perhaps accompanied by soldiers bearing Patroclus' body on stage, and leaving with it after 20.18.

20.43.1 *Exit* Diomed leaves in pursuit of Troilus.

20.44.1 *with Ulysses* Or Ulysses remains on stage, perhaps with other soldiers.

20.9 **colossus-wise** resembling the giant statue of Apollo thought to have stood astride the harbour entrance at Rhodes

20.9 **beam** spear-shaft

20.10 **pashèd** crushed

20.14 **sagittary** (a legendary centaur-like beast, armed with bow and arrows)

20.22 **scalèd schools** scaly schools of fish

20.23 **belching** spouting

20.24 **edge** sword-blade

20.25 **swath** sweep of the scythe

20.26 **leaves and takes** i.e. spares or kills at will

20.27 **appetite** his inclination

20.29 **proof** fact

20.33 **mangled** gashed with wounds

20.35 **Crying on** (probably like yelping hounds in the hunt)

20.38 **fantastic** extravagant

20.39 **Engaging . . . himself** (a metaphor of committing his life by a bond and paying it off; *engaging* also refers to fighting at close quarters)

20.40 **careless force . . . forceless care** reckless strength . . . effortless diligence

20.41 **As . . . all** Troilus' skill is such that it appears that he is impelled to victory by fortune rather than acting in himself.

20.44 **draw together** join forces

Sc. 21

5.6 *Enter Achilles*

ACHILLES Where is this Hector?

Come, come, thou boy-queller, show thy face.

Know what it is to meet Achilles angry.

Hector, where's Hector? I will none but Hector.

Exit

Sc. 22

5.7 *Enter Ajax*

AJAX Troilus, thou coward Troilus, show thy head.

Enter Diomed

DIOMED Troilus, I say! Where's Troilus?

AJAX What wouldst thou?

DIOMED I would correct him.

5 AJAX Were I the general, thou shouldst have my office
Ere that correction. Troilus, I say, what, Troilus!*Enter Troilus*TROILUS O traitor Diomed! Turn thy false face, thou traitor,
And pay the life thou owest me for my horse.

DIOMED Ha, art thou there?

10 AJAX I'll fight with him alone. Stand, Diomed.

DIOMED He is my prize. I will not look upon.

TROILUS Come both, you cogging Greeks, have at you both!

*[They fight.] Exit Troilus [driving in Ajax and Diomed]**Enter Hector [as they are leaving]*

HECTOR Yea, Troilus? O well fought, my youngest brother!

Enter Achilles

ACHILLES Now do I see thee. Have at thee, Hector!

[They fight]

15 HECTOR Pause if thou wilt.

ACHILLES I do disdain thy courtesy, proud Trojan.

Be happy that my arms are out of use.

My rest and negligence befriends thee now,

But thou anon shalt hear of me again,

20 Till when, go seek thy fortune.

Exit

HECTOR Fare thee well.

I would have been much more a fresher man

Had I expected thee. How now, my brother?

Enter Troilus

TROILUS Ajax hath ta'en Aeneas. Shall it be?

No, by the flame of yonder glorious heaven,

25 He shall not carry him. I'll be ta'en too,

Or bring him off. Fate, hear me what I say.

I reckon not, though thou end my life today.

*Exit**Enter one in [fine] armour, [a Greek]*

5.7 22.4 correct chastise, 'teach a lesson'

22.10 Stand stand back

22.11 look upon be a spectator

22.12 cogging cheating

22.17 use practice

22.23 ta'en taken captive

22.24 flame . . . heaven sun

22.26 bring him off rescue him

22.27 reckon care

5.7 22.14.1 *They fight*
Hector gains the advantage;
Achilles might be out of
breath or wounded in the
thigh; or he might drop his
sword.

HECTOR Stand, stand, thou Greek. Thou art a goodly mark.

No, wilt thou not? I like thy armour well.

30 I'll frush it and unlock the rivets all

But I'll be master of it. *[Exit Greek in armour]*

Wilt thou not, beast, abide?

Why then, fly on. I'll hunt thee for thy hide.

Exit

Sc. 23

5.8 *Enter Achilles with Myrmidons*

ACHILLES Come here about me, you my Myrmidons.

Mark what I say. Attend me where I wheel.

Strike not a stroke, but keep yourselves in breath;

And when I have the bloody Hector found,

5 Empale him with your weapons round about.

In fellest manner execute your arms.

Follow me, sirs, and my proceedings eye.

It is decreed: Hector the great must die.

Exeunt

Sc. 24

5.9 *Enter Thersites [at one door], Menelaus and Paris, [fighting, at another door]*

THERSITES The cuckold and the cuckold-maker are at it. Now, bull!

Now dog! 'Loo, Paris, 'loo! Now, my double-henned sparrow! 'Loo,

Paris, 'loo! The bull has the game. Ware horns, ho!

Exeunt Paris and Menelaus

Enter Bastard [Margarelon]

BASTARD Turn, slave, and fight.

5 THERSITES What art thou?

BASTARD A bastard son of Priam's.

THERSITES I am a bastard too. I love bastards. I am a bastard begot, bastard instructed, bastard in mind, bastard in valour, in everything illegitimate. One bear will not bite another, and wherefore should one

10 bastard? Take heed; the quarrel's most ominous to us: if the son of a whore fight for a whore, he tempts judgement. Farewell, bastard.

BASTARD The devil take thee, coward!

Exeunt

Sc. 25

5.10 *Enter Hector [dragging in the body of the Greek in fine armour]*

HECTOR Most putrified core, so fair without,

Thy goodly armour thus hath cost thy life.

Now is my day's work done. I'll take good breath.

Rest, sword; thou hast thy fill of blood and death.

[He disarms.] Enter Achilles and his Myrmidons

5 ACHILLES Look, Hector, how the sun begins to set,

How ugly night comes breathing at his heels.

22.28 **Stand** make a stand to fight

22.28 **mark** target; notable sight

22.30 **frush** smash

5.8 23.2 **wheel** range, move in an arc

23.5 **Empale** fence in

23.6 **fellest** cruellest, most violent

5.9 24.2 'Loo halloo (shout to encourage dogs hunting or fighting)

24.3 **has the game** is winning

24.9 **One . . . another** (proverbial)

24.11 **judgement** (on himself and on all bastards)

5.10 25.6 **at his heels** 'down his neck'

Even with the vail and darking of the sun

To close the day up, Hector's life is done.

HECTOR I am unarmed. Forgo this vantage, Greek.

10 ACHILLES Strike, fellows, strike. This is the man I seek.

[They strike down and kill Hector]

So, Ilium, fall thou; now, Troy, sink down.

Here lies thy heart, thy sinews, and thy bone.

On, Myrmidons! Cry you all amain

'Achilles hath the mighty Hector slain'. *Retreat [sounded within]*

15 Hark; a retreat upon our Grecian part. *[Another retreat sounded within]*

MYRMIDON The Trojan trumpets sounds the like, my lord.

ACHILLES The dragon wing of night o'erspreads the earth,

And, stickler-like, the armies separates.

My half-supped sword, that frankly would have fed,

20 Pleased with this dainty bait, thus goes to bed.

Come, tie his body to my horse's tail.

Along the field I will the Trojan trail. *Exeunt [with the bodies]*

5.10 25.10.1 *They* the
Myrmidons, and perhaps also
Achilles

Sc. 26

5.11 *Sound retreat [within]. Shout [within]. Enter Agamemnon, Ajax,
Menelaus, Nestor, Diomed, and the rest, marching*

AGAMEMNON Hark, hark; what shout is that?

NESTOR Peace, drums!

SOLDIERS *[within]* Achilles, Achilles! Hector's slain! Achilles!

DIOMED The bruit is, Hector's slain, and by Achilles.

AJAX If it be so, yet bragless let it be.

5 Great Hector was a man as good as he.

AGAMEMNON March patiently along. Let one be sent

To pray Achilles see us at our tent.

If in his death the gods have us befriended,

Great Troy is ours, and our sharp wars are ended. *Exeunt [marching]*

5.11 26.0.1 *Shout* The shout
may be heard both before and
after the entry, or may first be
heard when the Greeks are on
stage.

26.0.2 *the rest* i.e.
additional Trojan soldiers

Sc. 27

5.12 *Enter Aeneas, Paris, Antenor, and Deiphobus*

AENEAS Stand ho! Yet are we masters of the field.

Never go home; here starve we out the night.

Enter Troilus

TROILUS Hector is slain.

ALL Hector? The gods forbid!

TROILUS He's dead; and at the murderer's horse's tail

5 In beastly sort dragged through the shameful field.

Frown on, you heavens; effect your rage with speed.

Sit, gods, upon your thrones, and smite at Troy,

I say, at once. Let your brief plagues be mercy,

And linger not our sure destructions on.

5.12 27.2.1 *Enter Troilus*
Alternatively, he might enter
a line earlier, and speak 27.2.

25.7 vail going down

25.13 amain with full force

25.18 stickler umpire (in combat)

25.19 half-supped half-satisfied

25.19 frankly freely

25.20 bait snack

5.11 26.3 bruit noise, report

26.9 sharp fierce

5.12 27.2 starve we out the night let us endure the perishing cold
of the night (also suggesting 'let us besiege the night, inflicting
starvation on it')

27.5 sort manner

27.8 mercy mercifully quick in destruction

- 10 AENEAS My lord, you do discomfort all the host.
 TROILUS You understand me not that tell me so.
 I do not speak of flight, of fear, of death,
 But dare all imminence that gods and men
 Address their dangers in. Hector is gone.
 15 Who shall tell Priam so? Or Hecuba?
 Let him that will a screech-owl aye be called
 Go into Troy and say there 'Hector's dead'.
 There is a word will Priam turn to stone,
 Make wells and Niobes of the maids and wives,
 20 Cold statues of the youth, and, in a word,
 Scare Troy out of itself. But march away.
 Hector is dead; there is no more to say.—
 Stay yet.—You vile abominable tents
 Thus proudly pitched upon our Phrygian plains,
 25 Let Titan rise as early as he dare,
 I'll through and through you. And thou great-sized coward,
 No space of earth shall sunder our two hates.
 I'll haunt thee like a wicked conscience still,
 That mouldeth goblins swift as frenzy's thoughts.—
 30 Strike a free march! To Troy with comfort go:
 Hope of revenge shall hide our inward woe.

Exeunt [all but Troilus, marching]

Enter Pandarus

- PANDARUS But hear you, hear you!
 TROILUS Hence, broker-lackey! Ignomy and shame
 Pursue thy life and live aye with thy name. *Exit*
 35 PANDARUS A goodly medicine for mine aching bones! O world, world,
 world, thus is the poor agent despised! O traitors and bawds, how
 earnestly are you set a-work, and how ill requited! Why should our
 endeavour be so desired, and the performance so loathed? What verse
 for it? What instance for it? Let me see:
 40 Full merrily the humble-bee doth sing,
 Till he hath lost his honey and his sting;
 And being once subdued in armèd tail,
 Sweet honey and sweet notes together fail.
 Good traders in the flesh, set this in your painted cloths:
 45 As many as be here of Pandar's hall,
 Your eyes, half out, weep out at Pandar's fall:
 Or if you cannot weep, yet give some groans,
 Though not for me, yet for your aching bones.

27.36 O traitors and bawds
 Pandarus addresses this and
 the rest of his speech to the
 audience, as though the
 theatre were a brothel.

27.40–3 Full . . . fail. These
 verses might be either spoken
 or sung.

27.10 **host** army
 27.13 **imminence** impending danger
 27.14 **Address** prepare, direct
 27.16 **screech-owl** barn owl (Its cry was considered ominous.)
 27.18 **word** sentence, formula
 27.19 **Niobes** (Niobe was a mythical queen of Thebes, who wept so
 much at the loss of her children that the gods turned her into a
 statue which flowed with water.)
 27.25 **Titan** (the sun god)
 27.26 **thou . . . coward** Achilles
 27.29 **mouldeth goblins swift** fashions malicious spirits as swiftly
 27.30 **free** unimpeded

27.30 **comfort** this (one) comfort
 27.33 **broker-lackey** obsequious middleman; pimp
 27.33 **Ignomy** ignominy
 27.39 **instance** example, illustration
 27.42 **subdued** brought down, defeated
 27.42 **armèd tail** sting (and alluding to the post-coital penis)
 27.44 **painted cloths** painted wall-hangings (which would be
 sexually suggestive rather than admonitory in a brothel)
 27.45 **Pandar's hall** (Pimps are imagined as members of a guild
 with a hall.)
 27.46 **half out** halfway out of their sockets, or half-blind, as an
 effect of venereal disease

Brethren and sisters of the hold-door trade,
50 Some two months hence my will shall here be made.
It should be now, but that my fear is this:
Some gallèd goose of Winchester would hiss.
Till then I'll sweat, and seek about for eases,
And at that time bequeath you my diseases.

Exit

27.49 **the hold-door trade** pimping and prostitution

27.50 **here** in 'Pandar's hall', where the guild's legal affairs are conducted

27.52 **gallèd** sore, swollen

27.52 **goose of Winchester** (slang for 'prostitute')

27.53 **sweat** take sweating treatment for venereal disease